

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Editorial and Executive Office: 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

An Independent Christian Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Modernism, Worldliness and Formalism.

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let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."—Luke 23:35-37.

Come Down From the Cross

By John R. Rice, D.D., Litt.D.

"And they crucified him . . . And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth."—Matt. 27:35, 39-44.

"And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God. And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."—Luke 23:35-37.

GOD ANSWERS

By Changing Those Who Pray

By Dr. Charles Blanchard
2nd President of Wheaton College, Wheaton, Illinois

Some persons who do not believe that God answers prayer by bestowing things asked, teach us that the value of prayer is that it changes our own attitude. They look upon it like the exercises of a gymnasium, which are not intended to be fruitful except in the lives of those who take them. Men who believe that God answers prayer look upon praying as the farmer does upon his plowing, sowing, and reaping. He plows and sows and reaps not for exercise, not to put his body in condition, but to get wheat or oats or rye. The businessman who goes to the gymnasium takes his exercises not for the sake of making articles to sell or for the sake of selling articles, but for the purpose of keeping his body in condition so that he may do the work of life with comfort and efficiency.

I have already said that God has so constituted the human race that they naturally reject unmixed error. It is safe to say that there never has been a prevailing faith of any kind which does not contain some elements of truth and so here, as elsewhere, the above is a partial statement of the facts in the case. It does change men to pray and the change which

is wrought in them is one of the ways in which God answers their prayers.

Adoration

The old divines divided prayer into adoration, confession, submission, petition, and thanksgiving. Every one of these states of mind is an essential element of real prayer, and each one of them naturally tends to the securing of all sorts of good by the one who prays. Suppose, for example, that I am in need of money and I ask God to give me money. I really pray for it. I ask for it in the name of Jesus. I ask for it with thanksgiving. I ask for it with submission. I ask for it with fixed contemplation of the being and attributes of God. I adore Him. What must be the spiritual effect of time spent in this manner? Beyond doubt it clarifies the mind, it unburdens the heart, it stimulates all the energies, it puts one in condition for effective service. It rejuvenates. Going from such a season as this, one naturally takes hold of his business in a more effective manner than was possible when his mind was fixed on lesser things.

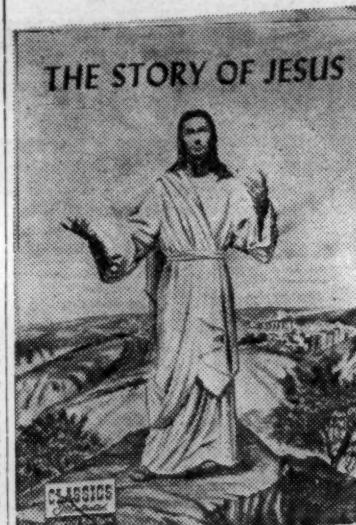
Such a time of waiting before God happiness and this in itself tends to secure favor from men—opportunities for advance. There is no duty in human life which can be performed so well when one is dwelling upon the petty, upon the imperfect, as when he is meditating upon the character and work of God. It is therefore true that prayer is a spiritual gymnastic. It is far more than this, but this it certainly is, and this is one way in which God answers our prayers.

Confession

Nothing cripples like unconfessed sin. There are ten thousand men walking the streets of any great city today, burdened and unfit for going on, simply because they have neglected or refused to confess their faults, their sins. The reason why men who

FREE

This beautiful book, 96 big pages size 7 x 10, gives



in chaste and beautiful language, beginning with the annunciation till the ascension, all the way "from manger to throne" as the late Dr. Talmage called his life of Christ.

This book should be used as a substitute for the comic books selling by the millions. The pictures are beautiful, from one to six of them to a page. The story is carried on in chaste and beautiful language, and is true to the Bible. The characters speak like those in comic strips in the newspapers. All the pictures are in color, and there are about 300 pictures in the book.

You may have this book absolutely free with every cash retail order or gift to the Sword of the Lord during Letter Month. You may buy books, send subscriptions—new or renewal—you may give gifts to the Sword Free Literature Fund, the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund, or to the Sword Building Fund. For every gift, large or small, we are glad to offer free this beautifully pictured life story of Jesus.

But do it at once. This offer good only till April 3. Mail your letter before midnight of that date. Address the Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois.

Letter Month
Closes April 3

See Details Inside

THE CRUCIFIXION—WAS it the world's greatest tragedy or the greatest triumph? Was Jesus the sad, helpless victim of wicked men, the victim of circumstances He could not control? Or was He God's sacrifice offered to pay for man's sin?

It is said that Clovis, king of the Franks, after hearing the story of the crucifixion, vividly told, vowed that if he and his army had been there they would have taken Jesus from the hands of the Roman soldiers and the chief priests; they would have thwarted the anger of the crowd and delivered the Lord Jesus from an unjust and criminal execution.

Well, we may credit the love and enthusiasm of the king, though doubtless he did not understand the implications of what he said.

Strangely enough, when Jesus hung dying on the cross, almost everybody around the scene joined in the cry that He should come

down from the cross. The crowd "that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."

The chief priests said, "If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross . . ." The scribes said the same thing. The elders and rulers said the same thing—"come down from the cross." "And the soldiers also mocked him . . . And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself." They said He could come down from the cross!

All these saw no eternal meaning, no merciful atonement, no manifestation of God's love in the crucifixion, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness . . ." (I Cor. 1:18). All these who cried to Jesus to come down from the cross, those

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Bridey Murphy AND THE BIBLE

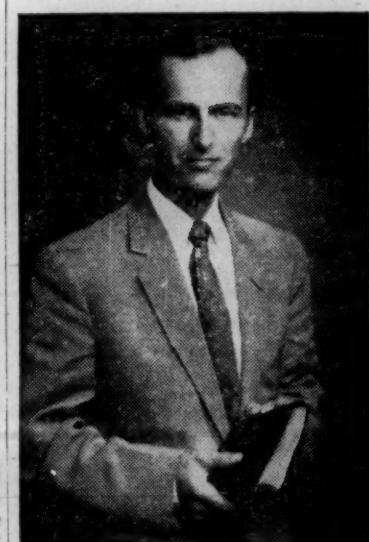
By
Rev. Roger F. Campbell
Lawrence, Michigan

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."—Heb. 9:27.

A few months ago, the message which I am to bring tonight would not have been of very much interest to you. The subject that is involved would have been vague and unimportant, but well-known happenings of just the past few months have brought the subject of reincarnation into the spotlight all over the nation. Much of this is due to the experiments of an amateur hypnotist named Morey Bernstein from Pueblo, Colorado. Bernstein is a successful businessman in that city, and claims to have successfully taken a young housewife through the barrier of time itself by hypnosis and learned the details of another life she had lived in Ireland more than one hundred years ago as "Bridey Murphy."

The belief in reincarnation is not new. We are told that in some areas in India it is common to see young men and women walking down the streets holding something over their mouths to keep from swallowing some passing insect lest it should be one of their ancestors. Some years ago the British government faced a problem in India when residents in a small town would not allow the extermination of rats because they were afraid that some of the rats were their ancestors. These people would choose to die of the sickness that was being spread by the rats rather than to have them killed, thinking their relatives had been reincarnated into rats.

Now, however, this lie of Satan has begun to sweep our land and with weird stories of miracles that will deceive many people. One of the outstanding things about it



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Dr. Charles Blanchard

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THAT LETTER!

You Plan to Write? Hurry! Sword Letter Month Closes April 3

By the Editor

This morning I read, to about fifty Sword of the Lord workers, a letter from a Catholic young man taking training as a commercial artist. He says he has "come to the light," but does not have strength and needs help to go on. He wanted to know for sure how to be saved. Wonderful letter!

In the same mail came a letter from a woman in Nova Scotia who trusted Christ as Saviour through a sermon in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Praise the dear Lord!

In the same mail, a boy, sixteen, in jail in Pensacola, Florida, after two years of crime, writes to tell me that he has found Christ as his Saviour and that my little booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" "answered questions no one here could answer." And he says, "Brother Rice . . . I feel like you are my brother. I am the dear boy's brother. Thank God, I am so glad he feels free to write me for encouragement and help.

This morning there also came a letter from a man in the Arkansas state penitentiary. He was a child of a broken home, knew nothing but to steal what he wanted when a boy, and now at last jailed for armed robbery. A good Methodist preacher urgently pressed upon him the love of Christ and his need for salvation. He thought it was too late. But the Methodist preacher prevailed with God's help, and he was wonderfully saved. Now he writes to tell me how THE SWORD OF THE LORD is his daily meat. He has no money to send, no one from whom to ask help, and he wonders if I would send him the book, *The Story of Jesus*, and write him a letter. You may be sure he was sent the book, and I will write him at once!

A Methodist layman in North Carolina writes to say how THE SWORD OF THE LORD came to his minister-son; how at first he thought it was "some holiness paper" until, some months after, he got to reading it. Now he found that he had been confused by modernistic literature he had read, and THE SWORD OF THE LORD had led him back to the fundamental faith of his childhood and how he is rejoicing! Such a letter!

And in the same mail is a letter from a Methodist preacher who has preached over fifty years. He has taken THE SWORD OF THE LORD for seven years and writes the most kindly and encouraging word to this editor. He is praying for a mighty revival and feels THE SWORD OF THE LORD is doing more to that end than any other paper.

All these I have just read today. Thank God for Letter Month! These letters are like cool water to a thirsty soul. They are like

balm, to comfort my wounded spirit. Harassed, pressed beyond measure with the work, slandered, accused on every side by modernists and worldlings and denominational idolaters, it is certainly good to hear these words from people blessed through THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

If you will write to us during Letter Month, rush your letter. Letter Month closes at midnight, April 3. Your letter must be mailed and postmarked before that time, to take advantage of Letter Month offers! Hurry! This is the last warning we can give in THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

An Editor Is Human, Too!

Some people suppose that when a man fights sin and stands up for Christ and the Bible, that his heart must be of stone and his skin of leather.

Bishop Oxnam, with Methodist leaders and the National Council of Churches leaders widely spreads that slanderous book, *Apostles of Discord*, which names and slanders those of us who make a fight for the fundamentals of the faith.

The editor of the *Illinois Baptist* writes about me in particular and says that I am "modernist to the core!" When asked to explain that by an indignant preacher he writes that to be premillennial is a modernist and not to support the Baptist program is modernistic!

The *Baptist Examiner* slanderously says that John R. Rice is an enemy of the church of Jesus Christ, that he is an Arminian, that he is a feminist.

The *Baptist Standard* of Texas has published a half dozen scandalous attacks, all the way from the utterly untrue statement that I taught storehouse tithing as a pastor in Texas to the charge that I am "lining my own pockets" by attacking modernism.

And you never heard a bootlegger or a rapist called meander names than are regularly addressed to me by Methodist and Baptist preachers who stand up for Nels Ferre, Bishop Oxnam, George Buttrick, and Emil Brunner!

Now, let it be understood that I am not ashamed to take my stand for Jesus. Christ and the Bible and soul winning must be first with me. I have no regrets. I take my wounds with what glad-

Youth's Corner

(Continued from page 2)

in this matter of how we handle our time, among other things.

"See then that ye walk circumspectly [that is, carefully], not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15, 16). "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17).

"Can a person maintain a Christian testimony and be a cheer leader or a drum major or majorette in a band?"

It would depend! I could not give a blanket statement of "yes" or "no" which would cover every situation. Probably it would be easier for a boy to participate here and maintain a good Christian testimony than for a girl, since the primary objection would be in the type of clothing worn.

The Scripture says in I Timothy 2:9, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel . . ." Most of the majorette costumes—and many of the girl cheer leader outfits—would hardly come under the title of "modest apparel." Seminudity is always wrong, in school activities just as anywhere else, so it would not be possible for a young person to maintain a good Christian testimony improperly clothed.

If the clothing is in good taste and the band does not play at questionable events, I see no reason for not being able to maintain a good testimony while participating in these school activities. As a matter of fact, I know many young people who have done just that! But let every young person be fully persuaded in his own mind, "for whatsoever is not of faith is sin" (Rom. 14:23).

ness I can muster for Jesus' sake. I am sure that God will furnish a glad reward one day and that "if we suffer, we shall also reign with him."

But I am still human. Wounds still smart and hurt and burn. It still hurts to be slandered by enemies, shunned and sometimes betrayed by friends, suspected by those who ought to be the first to help in this blessed business of standing up for Christ and the Bible, bringing back revival, and the winning of souls. I have my feelings. Well, that is one reason we need the reassurance and the comfort and encouragement of your letters during Letter Month!

Those who have been blessed by THE SWORD OF THE LORD, those who pray for us regularly, those who stand up with us for Christ, the Bible and soul winning ought to say so! We need comfort and your encouragement and your help. I am reminded of Shylock in Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" who was abused and despised because he was a Jew. He said, "Hath not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs, dimensions, senses, affections, passions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, healed by the same means, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tickle us, do we not laugh? if you poison us, do we not die?" And so an editor, an evangelist, a preacher of righteousness, a defender of the faith, has feelings, too, just as common people do. We have a right to the comfort, the encouragement, to the help of your letters. If you are blessed by THE SWORD OF THE LORD, say so! If you are for the fight we are making, say so!

Last Announcement: Your Letter Must Be Mailed Before Midnight April 3 to Take Advantage of Special Letter Month Offers

If you write at once you may buy copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" in the special Letter Month edition. There are 24 pages printed in dark green ink on fine yellow paper, for only \$1.00 per hundred, plus 15¢ for postage and packing. The usual price is \$2.00 per hundred. We suggest that you order as many of these as you can use in the months ahead at this money-saving price. Any orders after

Dr. Criswell on the National Council of Churches

Famous Southern Baptist Speaks His Mind on Modernist Ecumenical Movement

A Columbia, S. C., newspaper (name of paper not attached to clipping we received; sorry) for February 22 quotes the clear stand of Dr. W. A. Criswell, speaking at a statewide Baptist Conference an evangelism, as follows:

Dr. W. A. Criswell of Dallas, pastor of the largest Southern Baptist Church . . . took some solid pokes at the National Council of Churches and at those who teach "the spurious doctrine" of the universal Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man.

Here is an extension of his remarks, in his own words:

"In our day we (the Southern Baptists) are looked upon as peculiar, queer people. All the enlightened ones, all the intelligentia are saying that we gotta all be together in local and national and world councils of churches. They tell us, 'Brother, if you have any vision of the Kingdom and love the brethren, you will come along.'

"And they teach that spurious doctrine of the universal Fatherhood of God and brotherhood of man—which is a denial of everything in the Bible. They tell us to join in and have a great super church. Once there was such a super church and we call its time the dark ages.

"What do they want to do with us when we join up? They want to swallow us up and speak for us going before committees of Congress to espouse this and that in our name. But the things that they speak—half of them—are just as blasphemous and unbiblical as they can be . . .

"If they can't consume all our thoughts and energies, they will



Dr. W. A. Criswell

try to make us look cheap . . . They have a funny doctrine; they take one little failure and add him to another little failure and another and another and then they say, 'Just look at this great thing we have.'

"Are you preaching the Gospel? Are you true to the Bible? Stay true to the book right down the line and let somebody else gather this 'great ecumenical movement.'

rection, and ascension! We have a copy for you, if you write at once and send a cash retail order for books or subscriptions, or for every gift to the Sword Building Fund, or the Ministers and Missionary Subscription Gift Fund, or the Free Literature Fund, you may have absolutely free the big 96-page book, *The Story of Jesus*. It is in color, in chaste and beautiful language, accompanied by cartoon style pictures, but most reverently and beautifully drawn. Here you have the life story of Jesus on earth as taken from the four Gospels. The language follows the style of the King James Version of the Bible and it is beautifully true and accurate. Through this book you may follow all the way from the time the angel announced to Mary, the coming birth of Jesus, to His crucifixion, burial, resur-

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HELP WANTED!

Tremendous Opportunity to Do Good, Get Out the Gospel of Salvation, Assist in Transforming Lives Around the World, and Truly Live for Eternity

By Evangelist Robert L. Sumner, Associate Editor

"Enlarge the place of thy tent, and let them stretch forth the curtains of thine habitations: spare not, lengthen thy cords, and strengthen thy stakes."—Isaiah 54:2.

Altogether too often we are concerned only with our own little sphere of service and activity. We are far too prone to be like the short-sighted Christian who daily returned thanks at his table with the petty verse:

"God bless me, my wife, My son John, his wife; Us four—no more."

We need, in the language of a Richard Baxter, eternity stamped on our eyeballs so that our decision and actions will be made in that light. Our horizons need to be widened and our visions lengthened. Did not the wise man say, "Where there is no vision the people perish" (Prov. 29:18)? Oh, that we might have a vision of what God can do with us and through us when our lives and possessions are consecrated for His glory! Our vision needs to be world wide! We ought to follow the biblical advice of enlarging the place of our camp, stretching forth the curtains of our habitations, lengthening our cords, and strengthening our stakes. With the "spare not" enthusiasm of a zealot who is completely sold out to his cause, we ought to throw ourselves into the ministry of reconciliation for which the ascended Christ has commissioned us.

Our Free Literature Fund

We frankly need help in a number of projects, one of the most worthy of which is our Free Literature Fund. At the present time, as most of our readers know, we are making an all-out effort to get good books into the hands of young ministerial students who are in actual training and need help. For some time now we have been giving many books without

cost to them upon request, according to certain strict rules. Through March 5th, we had given out absolutely free a total of \$10,877.15 worth of books to these young ministerial students.

During the same time we received \$5,416.66 to help pay for these books. Of course, we are able to provide these books at wholesale prices so the cost of the \$10,877.15 worth of books was only \$6,526.29 to us. But that still leaves us in the hole at this present writing over \$1,100. We need some burdened friends who are interested in tomorrow's ministers, to help us place these books in their hands. Will you help?

"Whats" for Other Countries

Another vital phase of our written ministry concerns the distribution of the fruitful tract by Dr. Rice, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" This booklet has already been published in 22 languages and dialects with the salvation of thousands of precious souls resulting. We have received requests recently from Japan, Holland, Thailand, Argentina, the Gold Coast, Korea, India, and other places for help in printing new editions. A few weeks ago we printed a precious letter from missionary Fred B. Jarvis telling of the great blessing from the Japanese edition of the "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" booklet and prayerfully asking if another edition could not be made. A million copies could be printed for approximately \$8,000. At the same time we printed an appeal from the Presbyterian missionary, Robert Rice, who reported that they could use up to two million copies of the tract in the Korean lan-

Last Chance for Free Books

Deadline Is Midnight, April 3, for Getting Free Copies of "The Story of Jesus" and "Watching Jesus Die"

Our "Letter Month" for 1956 is rapidly drawing to a close, with the deadline next Tuesday night at midnight. Hundreds of our readers have intended to write us a letter ever since the first "Letter Month" announcement appearing in the February 24 issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, yet who have not done so. This is a final reminder to urge you to write immediately and to describe again

guage in the coming year. It would take \$14,766.66 to supply this demand. What a tragedy if we cannot help them because short-sighted Christians at home cannot see beyond their own immediate needs and problems. Will you not lengthen your cords and strengthen your stakes in this matter?

Ministers and Missionary Fund

Another tremendously worthwhile project which accomplishes immeasurable good is our free Ministers and Missionary Subscription Fund. This is a fund whereby we seek to supply, as a missionary project, free subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD for needy Christians, usually full-time workers, at home and abroad. How thrilled you would be if you could read the letters which constantly come to our office from those who have received the free subscriptions, thanking us for making it available to them. Usually they are letters from those who could not afford the subscription themselves or from those who would have never known about the paper if a free introductory subscription had not been sent them. A good number of the letters tell how faith has been restored, the old-time religion has been given its proper place again in a neglected ministry, and other blessings which have resulted. I say that I honestly wish you could read the letters for those who are aware of the facts in this matter are our heaviest contributors. If you were able to see first hand the good that this fund is doing, you would make an honest, earnest effort to help.

During the year of 1956 we have set a tentative goal of \$5,500 a month for this fund. This is the amount we would like to see come in every month to help in this undertaking. If this seems like an unusually large amount to you, it is only because we are trying to fulfill the scriptural injunction to lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes. It seems to me that \$5,500 would be a mighty small amount to have just one minister or missionary restored to the old-time faith or to receive an evangelistic vision. Yet this amount will do good not in a single man's ministry, but in the ministry of literally hundreds.

What do you think you could do to help? Or perhaps I should ask, what do you think God would have you do? Like Mary of old to the Galilean servants, we simply say, "Whatsoever he sayeth unto you, do it" (John 2:5). When you have obeyed Him, the ones you have served will say with the governor, "Thou hast kept the good wine until now" (John 2:10).

"Watching Jesus Die"

FREE to those who help us immediately. Remember that we are giving the brand-new book of sermons on the crucifixion by Dr. Rice, *Watching Jesus Die*, free with every gift of \$10 during our 1956 "Letter Month." If you send us a gift of \$10 or more for the Free Literature Fund, the M & M Fund, or to help in the printing of *Whats* in other countries, you will get this big 246-page, library-binding book of ten moving messages on the cross absolutely free. But to get in on the free book you must have your letter bearing the gift of \$10 or more postmarked before midnight, April 3rd. That is next Tuesday and you must hurry if you are going to get in on this offer. Won't you please write your letter and enclose your gift today? Address your mail to: The Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois. Thank you and God bless you.

the offer of free books which expires with the close of the 1956 "Letter Month."

Free Illustrated Life of Christ

One of our "Letter Month" gifts is the beautiful illustrated life of Christ which we are giving free with every order or gift regardless of the amount. There are several reasons why we think you will like this lovely book of nearly one hundred pages.

For one thing, it is a family book. I mean by that that everyone will enjoy reading it. Parents, young people and children alike will delight in its moving story. I know from experience that my own children were thrilled with its style and make up. Even the smaller children who are not yet able to read delighted in looking at the pictures and imagining in their little minds what the story was about. You will find that your own children will enjoy reading it, and those who do not read will be fascinated by the pictures when you read the story to them.

We think you will like it because of the simplicity of its style. The story is illustrated with approximately three hundred clear pictures and follows the King James text and language. I doubt that anyone would complain concerning the language that is used in this book. Very often it is the exact wording of the Bible, while in other places it faithfully gives the exact meaning in modern language.

The book is attractive! The entire story has been done in beautiful color and although the paper is ordinary and inexpensive the book still has a high tone about it. The outside cover is especially appealing and attractive.

The story is divided into six major sections dealing with the birth and boyhood of Jesus, His preparation for His life's work, His Galilean ministry, Jesus at Jerusalem, His betrayal, trial and crucifixion, and His resurrection. There are 96 pages in this 7x10-inch book with paper cover.

Remember that we are giving *The Story of Jesus*, FREE, with every cash retail order, regardless of amount, during the 1956 "Letter Month." It is also being sent FREE with any gift to any phase of the Sword of the Lord Foundation ministry. It might be the Free Literature Fund, the Ministers and Missionary Fund, or some other project. We are also giving it FREE with subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, either new or renewal.

Editor's New Book on the Crucifixion Also Free During "Letter Month"

The editor of THE SWORD OF THE LORD, Dr. John R. Rice, has just compiled a brand-new book of his messages on the crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ. The author well says in his Introduction, "The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ is at the very center of the Christian Gospel. Not the birth of Christ, not the Sermon on the Mount, not the perfect life of the Lord Jesus, but His death upon the cross, is the focal point of divine revelation. The inspired Apostle Paul could rightly say, 'God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ' He could properly define the Gospel he preached, ' . . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures . . . and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.' That is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the absolutely essential basis of the historic Christian faith.

"It is no wonder then that all gospel preachers find the accounts of the crucifixion in the four Gospels as the richest mines of texts. Here are ten Bible sermons on the crucifixion of Christ.

"In solid Bible preaching on the crucifixion one gets all the great doctrines of the Bible. So, they are here in this book—human depravity, Christ's deity and sinless humanity, His atonement, salvation by grace, saving faith, the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ's

Safety in Thorns

Annoyances that seem to us like thorns have their purpose. A certain Cooper's hawk has become very bold and will often come within twenty feet of a house in pursuit of a flock of English sparrows. But they have learned that they can find safety deep down in a large barberry bush. The hawk swoops in, hops around the bush on the ground, springs to the top of it, and generally flies off frustrated. While he is near, there is great excitement among the sparrows, but when they think the coast is clear, they go back to the feeding station. Through Hosea, God pleaded with Israel in highly symbolic language, as a husband would plead with a wayward wife. He said: "Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall seek them, but shall not find them: then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now" (Hos. 2:6, 7). If He hedged Israel's way with thorns, and provides a barberry bush for a little flock of English sparrows, may we not see His restraining and protecting hand in the nagging, pricking trials that beset our path? Without doubt they help to keep us in the straight and narrow way, and, in God's inscrutable wisdom, they may be the very thing that prevents us from exposing ourselves to that great enemy who "walketh about, seeking whom he may devour." (Reprinted from *The Sunday School Times*.)

Please mention THE SWORD OF THE LORD when answering advertisements.

second coming, and more. How I would have reveled, as a young Christian, in such studies as these!

"Here are selected sermons on the crucifixion which have most moved my own soul in the preaching, and which have been blessed the most to others"

This book is a big book of 246 pages, 5 1/2x8 inches in size, done with a beautiful cover of magenta, white and purple.

The ten sermon titles are: "What Shall I Do Then With Jesus?" "Behold the Man!" "Watching Jesus Die," "The Seamless Robe," "Father, Forgive Them", "Come Down From the Cross," "The Criminal Who Wanted a Second Chance," "It is Finished," "The Torn Veil," and "Facing the Pierced Jesus."

This book is already on sale for \$2.50 per copy. However, during the 1956 "Letter Month" it is being given FREE with every order or gift of \$10.00 or more.

If you send in \$10 or more worth of subscriptions to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, you get one copy of this book free. Or if you send in a \$10 contribution to the Free Literature Fund or the Ministers and Missionary Fund, or some other phase of the foundation ministry you get a free copy of this book. Or if you ordered \$10 worth or more of the retail books, you would get one free copy of *Watching Jesus Die*. For example you could buy four copies of this book at the regular price of \$2.50, then receive one copy free. Or you might buy \$10 worth of some other retail books and get this book free.

Offer Closes at Midnight Tuesday

However you must act quickly if you want to get either the book, *The Story of Jesus* or *Watching Jesus Die*. This Letter Month offer closes at midnight, April 3rd, and all requests must be postmarked before that time. I suggest you write your letter and enclose your subscriptions, order or gift immediately. In your letter tell us also, if you will, of how THE SWORD OF THE LORD or our other written ministry has helped and blessed your life. We want your letter.

Address your communications to The Sword of the Lord, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois. Please write at once before you forget.

Special Offer Ends April 3

"What Must I Do to Be Saved?" 100 for \$1.00

Only during Letter Month, which ends at midnight April 3, can you get this blessed soul-winning booklet at half price! For only 1c each, in quantities of 100 or more, you can get the sermon-tract which some 5,800 people have claimed has won them to Christ in the English edition alone. God is using this tract in a mighty manner among the lost.

A Sample of Its Blessing

This letter is a sample of the mail we continually receive. A friend in a mid-western state wrote the editor, "I want you to know that a young lady 19 years of age who is an inmate of the Women's Industrial School at Beloit, Kansas, was gloriously saved two weeks ago. She was a very lovely young girl and graduated from . . . high school a year ago but fell into the hands of a wicked gambler and car dealer. She was apprehended at a house of prostitution"

"God laid her heavily on my heart so I wrote to her several times and sent her your booklet on 'What Must I Do to Be Saved?' . . . She wasn't allowed to answer at that time but the day she was saved she was allowed to write to me.

"She testified so greatly to God's wonderful saving power and how He had lifted her. She begged me to go to her older sister which I had already done and who accepted Jesus too. She said how clear the tract made things to her so I surely wanted you to know. I have sent her more to give to other inmates. Also I gave her sister one and her parents, whose home was broken and relationship still is very bad"

Order a good supply now while the rate has been cut 50%. An invaluable aid in reaching the lost for Christ.



(Quantities less than \$1 must be purchased at regular rate, 2c a copy.)

100 for \$1
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Please send me _____ copies, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" at the special Letter Month price of 100 for \$1 plus 15c postage. I enclose \$_____.

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LETTERS WE LOVE

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."—Prov. 25:25.

We love to get good letters. Everyone does! But especially do we love to get letters from our readers telling of how our books, booklets and *The Sword of the Lord* have blessed their lives and ministries. That is one reason why we are so happy to get the thousands of letters which flood into our office every year during Letter Month. We are so anxious to please you with a paper of the highest caliber, and when we learn of successful results, of course we are happy.

Have you written your letter this year yet? Time is almost over and your letter must be postmarked before April 3rd at midnight in order to count as a 1956 "Letter Month" letter or to qualify for one of the free books we are offering.

Some of the letters we have received just recently have really blessed our hearts. A missionary in Capetown, South Africa, writes Dr. Rice as follows:

"I feel almost guilty that I have not written recently to thank you for the regular supply of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* if its only to thank you ever so much for not forgetting me in sending your precious paper. The recent issues continue to be a blessing. Especially those articles proving there are no signs predicting the coming of the Lord for His people. They are very, very illuminating and prove that He may come today without any intervening signs."

How grateful missionaries are on foreign fields to receive this stirring, challenging, informative, spiritual paper. Possibly you know missionaries for whom you could subscribe to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. Or perhaps you would like to use this Letter Month time to send a contribution to our Ministers and Missionary Fund which provides free subscriptions to missionaries and others. Remember that you get a free copy of Dr. Rice's new book, *Watching Jesus Die*, if you send a gift of \$10 or more before the 3rd of April.

A fine letter just came from a young man who was called to a small Baptist church in Louisiana. He told of the difficulties in finances, the barn-like house in which he lived, and other problems. But he wrote with genuine thankfulness the following appreciation to Dr. Rice:

"This is the first time I have taken the opportunity to write you a word of appreciation for your wonderful paper, *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. I know that a paper such as this requires time and effort on your part but on my part it has only been such a great blessing that words fail to really express my heartfelt appreciation."

"I have been in the ministerial work for over two years now. When I surrendered to preach in 1953 with only a high school diploma and three boys I certainly had a rough time trying to preach good solid sermons. Some Sundays I just didn't have much of a sermon."

"Then I began receiving your paper. It was a wonderful help to me at that time. I had no books and no money and was in debt. The church paid me \$25 a week and mileage on my car was more than 500 miles a week. So after I began getting the paper I had some good material to study for a sermon."

"Now, I look forward to the paper every Thursday and can hardly wait until it comes. Many times the Lord laid a special sermon on my heart and all week I would study for it, then when your paper came it would have a similar sermon in it to help me."

"May God richly bless all the staff of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, the editor, and the readers."

I thought when I read this good letter of how many hundreds of other young, inexperienced, consecrated ministers would appreciate the help of *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* if they knew about it and it was available to them. Would God have you subscribe for preachers of your acquaintance or send contributions to our Ministers and Missionary Fund? Whatever God would have you to do, that would please us.

From Iowa a friend wrote to tell of the help received through some of our booklets.

"I have just finished reading prayerfully and reverently the books of John R. Rice, *CAN A SAVED PERSON EVER BE LOST?* and *EIGHT GOSPEL ABSURDITIES*. To say that I received a great blessing and a great deal of inspiration is putting it very mildly. I have had my whole thinking on this great question settled once and for all. After

reading these two books, I know that I am not lost and I have been drawn closer to Christ my Saviour and God my Heavenly Father.

"Thank you very much and again I wish to express my thanks for the wonderful books in which God's Word is so wonderfully explained."

The letter also ordered some of the other booklets in the 15c series.

The pastor of a Baptist church in Minnesota recently had a "Sword Sunday" observance in his church and wrote Dr. Rice of the blessing it was to him. His letter was so appreciated that we quote it in full here.

"I have written a time or two telling of the great blessings received from reading *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*. To me it is the greatest Christian weekly paper published in this day."

"I am so sold on it that my church had *SWORD OF THE LORD* week. God gave us some real blessings. I was blessed just talking about it. My deacons have given me permission to send it to those unsaved ones and young Christians who were not here the Sunday we had *SWORD* week, in order to complete the twenty-five subscriptions. I am looking to God for some real fruit from this little expression of love from my men here. I am believing God for some precious souls for His glory. Keep up the good work for Him."

From the State of Oklahoma a minister writes:

"A little note to again say how much *THE SWORD* means to me. I have a file on every issue for the past seven years. I wouldn't be without it."

"I do admire your stand for the historic Christian faith, and your marvelous defense of the Gospel of grace. I pray for you regularly that God will give you strength, grace and many more fruitful years in His service."

"I feel that you and *THE SWORD* have done more for the cause of evangelism than any other single factor in the land. I never cease to marvel how you can turn out so much work."

"God bless you and rest assured that you have our prayers."

A Methodist minister in West Virginia writes us enthusiastically about what the paper had meant to him. Among other things, he wrote:

"I have received *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* for two years now as a gift and I thank God that I have, it has been a great deal of help to me. I don't feel that perhaps I could have carried it myself. But in a small way I want to help by having 'Sword Sunday.'

"The Lord has blessed us in our ministry here and helped to supply our financial needs so that we are sending *THE SWORD* to some of my friends that are in the ministry that it might help them. (Able to pay for our own now.)"

Note about this good brother that he could not afford *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* himself and had received it for two years through the kindness of a friend. He honestly felt that he could not pay for the subscription himself up until this time. Notice also that he felt a personal responsibility to repay *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* for the help he had received by subscribing for other friends in the ministry. He rightfully wanted to pay this debt of love and received real blessing from so doing. Others who have been blessed and helped by *THE SWORD* should "go thou and do likewise."

All through the month of March you have been planning to write us a letter of appreciation during Letter Month. Now Letter Month is almost over and you have not written. Won't you please sit down immediately and tell us what you think of the paper, how it has blessed your own life and the life of others that you know about, and offer any kindly suggestions about how the paper could be improved, if you like? We will be

Noteworthy NEWS Notes

Liquor Ads in "Time"

The December 12th issue of *Time* magazine contained 41 full-page ads printed in color, and 11 of these (over 25 per cent) were for whisky. It seems that many widely-circulated magazines including *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune* are deliberately capitalizing on liquor advertising for reasons of financial gain. They glamorize liquor with the most beautiful ads they can print. The profit motive is understandable in some, but the strange fact about *Time*, *Life*, and *Fortune* is that these magazines are published by Henry Luce, and both Mr. Luce and his wife, Clare Booth Luce, claim to be very religious people.

A recent issue of *Woman's Home Companion* carried a life story on Clare Booth Luce which told of the unhappiness of her first marriage. Her first husband was a very rich man but he was an alcoholic. He drank more and more until he was in a daze most of the time and hardly knew what he was doing. Clare finally divorced him and later married Mr. Luce.

In view of the fact that liquor ruined her first marriage, how can Mrs. Luce refrain from urging her husband to "dry up" his magazines and stop advertising that which will ruin many other marriages? Liquor has broken more homes, stained more character, and sent more souls to Hell than any other single evil on earth.

The Turnpikes Are "Dry"

America's turnpikes are setting a good example for all the road builders in the country. Drivers cannot buy a drink of intoxicating liquor on any toll road now in operation. A survey of the 15 turnpike authorities in 14 states by the Methodist Board of Temperance showed that all, without fail, prohibit or will prohibit the sale of alcohol on toll roads under their jurisdiction.

Methodist "Inclusivism"

One of the sad features of polity in most of the major denominations is their "inclusivism." They will accept both Bible believers and unbelievers, disguised as religious persons.

Christian Beacon reports the contents of a book of 127 pp., called, *I Believe*, published by the General Board of Education of the Methodist Church Youth Departments, Nashville, Tennessee. Here is a sample of their "inclusivism." Discussing the question of the virgin birth of Christ, they say:

If, therefore, you can believe in the virgin birth, well and (Continued on page 6)

so glad to get your suggestions.

Some of the letters that we receive, if we feel that they are of general interest in the sense that others will rejoice in how you have been helped, we will publish in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* as space permits. Perhaps your letter would be printed if you would write us.

Your letter should not be lengthy or flowery. We simply want the simple facts about how *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* or our other literature has helped your own spiritual life. Perhaps you have been converted through our ministry and you have never told us. Perhaps you have surrendered your life to full time service, quit some sin, left some modernistic church or denomination, or been helped in some other real way. Be brief. Please write us and let us rejoice with you over the blessing.

All "Letter Month" letters should be postmarked before midnight April 3rd. Remember, too, that you will receive the lovely illustrated book, *The Story of Jesus*, with every cash order sent in before that time, and the big clothbound book, *Watching Jesus Die*, by Dr. Rice will be given free with every subscription order, retail book order, or gift of \$10 or more if sent in before the 3rd of April. Address all mail to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

Author John R. Rice Introduces . . .

WATCHING JESUS DIE

10 Moving Sermons on the Crucifixion

The crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ is at the very center of the Christian Gospel. Not the birth of Christ, not the Sermon on the Mount, nor the perfect life of the Lord Jesus, but His death upon the cross, is the focal point of divine revelation. The inspired Apostle Paul could rightly say, "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ..." He could properly define the Gospel he preached, "...how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures... and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." That is the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ and the absolutely essential basis of the historic Christian faith.

It is no wonder then that all gospel preachers find the accounts of the crucifixion in the four Gospels as the richest mines of texts. This is the reason for the book, *Watching Jesus Die*, which contains ten Bible sermons on the crucifixion of Christ.

In solid Bible preaching on the crucifixion one gets all the great doctrines of the Bible. So, they are here in this book—human depravity, Christ's deity and sinless humanity, His atonement, salvation by grace, saving faith, the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ's second coming, and more. How I would have reveled, as a young Christian, in such studies as these!

Here are selected sermons on the crucifixion which have most moved my own soul in the preaching, and which have been blessed the most to others. Two of these sermons have never appeared in book form before. They are "The Seamless Robe" and "Come Down From the Cross." Two of the messages have been taken from "And God Remembers..." Three have come from "When Skeletons Come Out of Their Closets," two from "Revival Appeals," and one from "Immanuel—God With Us."

FREE! During March only, with each \$10 or more cash retail order or gift. Ten burning sermons on the crucifixion of Christ. \$2.50 value. (\$3 after June 1)

Most of these sermons have a decision form at the close, encouraging the reader to come immediately to a personal decision of repentance and faith in Christ as his own Saviour. They seem such a proper part of the sermons, and this idea has been so blessed of God that we dared not leave off these decision forms. I hope, therefore, that this book will be put into the hands of many, many unconverted people and that the dear Lord Jesus, our crucified and risen Saviour, will be greatly glorified in the conversion of sinners through these messages.

John R. Rice

CHAPTER TITLES:

1. "What Shall I Do Then With Jesus?"
2. "Behold the Man!"
3. "Watching Jesus Die"
4. "The Seamless Robe"
5. "Father, Forgive Them . . ."
6. "Come Down From the Cross"
7. "The Criminal Who Wanted a Second Chance"
8. "It Is Finished"
9. "The Torn Veil"
10. "Facing the Pierced Jesus"

How to Get a Free Copy

First, of course, you may buy a copy for \$2.50, plus 15c for postage and handling charges. This thick volume of 246 large pages is very reasonably priced to give it a wider circulation than books the same size selling for \$2.75, \$3.00, or \$3.25. You may purchase as many of them as you please, remembering that during "Letter Month" you can get one free by buying four others. *WATCHING JESUS DIE* is truly a bargain at \$2.50.

In addition you would receive a free copy of *THE STORY OF JESUS* which we are giving with every order of retail books, subscriptions or gifts,

regardless of the amount. This lovely book of 96 pages is an illustrated story, in color, of the life of Christ. Young and old alike will delight in it.

Why not write your letter today and enclose the order, gift or subscriptions which you have been long intending to send? Especially are we anxious for you to have a copy of this lovely new book with ten of Dr. Rice's messages, some new and some old but all a blessed delight and comfort.

Address your letter to

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214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois

You'll love this book:

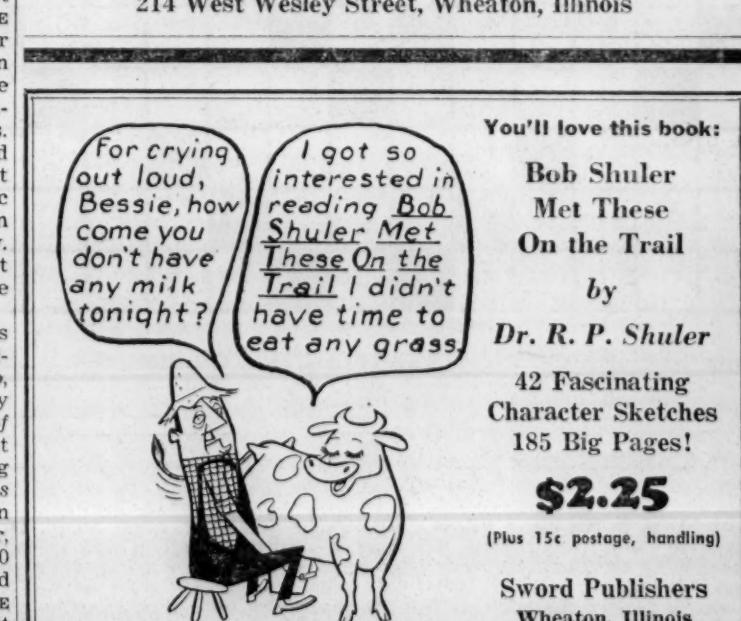
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Wheaton, Illinois





Evangelists

REPORTS FROM AMERICA'S OUTSTANDING SOUL WINNERS

By the Editor

(NOTE: We are happy to publish honest reports of blessed revivals from trustworthy evangelists and churches. However, if you send us your report for publication, PLEASE give exact statistics, as far as possible, concerning conversions, rededications, additions, etc., or we may not print it. We especially appreciate reports from pastors and chairmen of union campaigns.)

The Lintz-Davis evangelistic team with **DR. HARRY McCORMICK LINTZ**, evangelist, and Rev. Jimmie Davis, soloist, have concluded a series of meetings with the First Baptist Church, Tucson, Arizona. Dr. R. S. Beal is the notable pastor.

Outstanding among the conversions were two city policemen who were saved early in the meetings, then baptized, and who never missed another night. Over fifty first-time decisions for Christ were made in two weeks. Fifteen were baptized; others will do so later. A number joined the church by letter.

EVANGELIST RALPH M. DAVIDSON of Coffeyville, Kansas, wrote March 2: "Just closed a 12-day revival at Shiloh Bible Church, Linden, Iowa, Rev. Paul Nicholas, pastor. This was my second meeting at this small country church. The Lord permitted us to see six step out for Christ. One lady came for salvation who was 83 years of age! Many decisions were made among Christians . . . Last night I started a meeting at Cedarville Community Church in Jerico Springs, Missouri. Rev. Walter Jones, pastor, is a real booster of THE SWORD OF THE LORD."

According to old-timers of the First Baptist Church of Monmouth, Oregon, there has not been such a soul-stirring revival in years and years as has prevailed since the beginning of two weeks of meetings conducted by the **TOM FAIR EVANGELISTIC PARTY**. Former opera singer Bill Jackson led the singing. Rev. H. Campbell,

the pastor, reports 35 first-time decisions for Christ, and many rededications.

Sixteen souls were saved in a campaign conducted at the Church of the Brethren at Mount Pleasant, Pennsylvania, by **EVANGELIST EDDIE WAGNER**. These meetings were sponsored by the Christian Laymen of that town.

"I am writing to report a wonderful two-week meeting just ended with **EVANGELIST JOE MILLER**, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania," writes Pastor J. Harold Perdue of Shenango Valley Bible Church of Transfer, Pennsylvania. Five souls were saved; 15 rededicated their lives to the Lord. "All our hearts were stirred and challenged to greater service for Christ . . . I feel that Joe Miller is an outstanding evangelist whose preaching is clear and powerful, and I heartily recommend him to any church desiring a real spiritual revival," continues the pastor.

SWORD EVANGELIST J. OSCAR WELLS recently conducted a fine revival at the Boiling Springs Church of God at Decatur, Illinois. Rev. Dewey Zinn is the pastor. There were 38 first-time decisions, 6 rededications.

Sword of the Lord **EVANGELIST WALT HANDFORD** has just concluded a series of revival campaigns which have taken him all the way from Ohio to Nebraska and Colorado. Walt is a young evangelist of fire and Bible knowledge and is one of the most adaptable young evangelists we know. In large or small situations,

his meetings are usually outstanding.

In the First Brethren Church of Covington, Ohio, there were 15 conversions and 12 rededications with several entire families being saved and a great work being done in the hearts of the people. It was felt that a third week, had he been able to remain, would have resulted in far greater things accomplished for God. The Rev. James O. Young is pastor of this church.

In the First Baptist Church of Craig, Colorado, there were 10 conversions and 6 rededications. There was no pastor in the church and very little had been done in the way of preparation, but God gave a really great stirring. Evangelist Handford secured a daily radio broadcast and spent his days visiting among the people.

In the Windfall Methodist Church of Windfall, Indiana, there were some unusual conversions and rededications. One rededication was a professional man who was on the verge of committing suicide!

This young evangelist is willing to go anywhere God clearly leads and you may contact him by writing directly to him or to Evangelist Bill Rice, 214 West Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

EVANGELIST R. T. STRANGE of 609 North 39th Street, Fort Smith, Arkansas, recently conducted a good revival meeting with the Calvary Baptist Church of Irving, Texas. The Rev. E. A. Goldsmith is pastor of this church and reports that in spite of inclement weather, attendance was good during the meeting.

There were 20 who joined the church for baptism as a result of the campaign, and there were others who began family altars, etc. Brother Goldsmith feels that it was a blessed revival and is glad to recommend the evangelist to others.

FOR YOUR PROTECTION

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Noteworthy News Notes

(Continued from page 5) good. You have a firm basis for your conviction that Jesus came from God. If you cannot believe it, do not worry about it, but in your own way hold fast to this same conviction. In either case, try to view with understanding those who differ with you.

The question of faith in the supernatural miracles of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, and other vital doctrines is treated in much the same way.

The editor of the *Christian Beacon* rightly says,

The true and appropriate title of this book should be, "I don't Believe." The Methodists here present a religion entirely different from the Christian faith; in fact, it is a pagan religion, even though it uses Christian terms and calls itself Christianity. Most vital doctrines are questioned, said to be unimportant, and the conclusions offered are that Christianity can get along without them. But the so-called Christianity that gets along with out these important doctrines is another religion. See Galatians 1:6-9.

The largest Baptist church in Scotland—Charlotte Chapel in Edinburgh—has withdrawn from the Baptist Union of Scotland. Chief reason given for the action was the Union's affiliation with the World Council of Churches. Said the church: "The World Council will not commit itself to bow to the final authority of the Scriptures."

The Christian Digest, for the last twenty years well-known throughout the country, has discontinued publication. Reason: "Since last spring, the number of subscribers has been declining steadily. In fact, since the war years . . . the decline of subscribers has been alarming and constant."

Dr. Wilbur M. Smith, professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, has transferred his membership from the Presbyterian Church in the USA to that of the New York and Philadelphia Synod of the

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Reformed Episcopal Church.

A ten per cent discount to all members of the clergy was voted by the Avis Rent-A-Car System at its sixth annual convention in Boston. This discount applies

(Continued on page 12)

Puzzle Number 17

CLEWS ACROSS

- 1 Animal which Rebekah rode to meet Isaac. (Gen. 24:64)
- 6 "A vain thing for safety." (Ps. 33:17)
- 11 Animals which Elisha was using when called to be a prophet. (I Ki. 19:19)
- 12 Name of God given to Moses. (Ex. 3:14)
- 14 Rodents
- 15 Allow
- 16 Son of Jacob and Zilpah. (Gen. 30:13)
- 18 Industrious insect
- 19 Try
- 21 Place of the burial of Moses. (Deut. 34:5)
- 23 Trees not indigenous to Palestine
- 25 A city of Judah. (Josh. 15:34)
- 27 Unconfined
- 28 Printer's measures
- 30 Become fluid
- 32 A Chaldean city where Abram was born. (Gen. 11:28)
- 33 My great Master
- 34 Continent (Abbr.)
- 35 King of Midian, slain by Moses. (Numb. 31:8)
- 37 Couch
- 38 Possesses
- 40 A small, sheltered valley
- 42 A weight of Egypt, Turkey and Greece. (2 1/4 lbs.) (O—)
- 44 Place of bliss
- 46 Expression of triumph
- 48 The only prophetic book in the New Testament (Abbr.)
- 50 Delay
- 52 Song
- 54 Preposition
- 56 Gained
- 57 Animal. One of them killed the children who mocked Elisha. (II Ki. 2:24)
- 58 Things troublesome, noxious or destructive
- 59 Father of David

CLEWS DOWN

- 1 Young animal, which went with its mother, on which Jesus rode into Jerusalem. (Matt. 21:7)
- 2 Elisha caused this iron implement to swim. (II Ki. 6:1-7)
- 3 Ardor
- 4 Measure for type
- 5 Jehovah. (Ps. 68:4)
- 7 Conjunction
- 8 City in Moab; east of the Jordan. (Josh. 13:25)

Answers to Puzzle Number 15:

XV

F	L	O	C	K	S	M	E	T	R	E	I	N	F	L	E	E	H
E	R	E	I	N	F	L	E	E	H								
S	A	M	A	R	I	O	M	E	G								
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O	S	U	E	Z	A	B	E	L	A								
L	I	T	T	E	R	R	A	N	S								

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ Zone _____ State _____

and address in the blank below the puzzle and mail to: Aunt Jessie, PUZZLE EDITOR, The Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois. We cannot return entries. If you do not wish to receive your issue later than the deadline date, send your entry anyway, stating the date on which your SWORD was received.

3. To receive the booklet, *The Unequal Yoke*, your entry must be postmarked by midnight, Thursday, April 5, 1956. The Answer to Puzzle No. 17 will appear in the April 13 issue of THE SWORD. Should you receive your issue later than the deadline date, send your entry anyway, stating the date on which your SWORD was received.

"Come Down From the Cross"

(Continued from page 1)

who mocked Him and reviled Him and taunted Him that if He were all He claimed to be He might now come down from the cross and prove it, were unconverted unbelievers. The cross was to these perishing souls, foolishness! This crucified Christ which Paul preached was "... unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness."

Why does God, in His eternal and perfect Word, go to such pains to tell us of all these who taunted Jesus saying, "Come down from the cross"?

I. Who Said, "Come Down From the Cross"?

The Scriptures name all these who mocked and reviled Jesus and said, "Come down from the cross." We do well to prayerfully consider who they were, and why to them the cross was foolishness and a stumblingblock, why they saw no eternal virtue in the death of Christ.

1. "They That Passed by," the General Crowd, Said It

Jesus died on the "day of the preparation of the passover," He Himself being God's passover Lamb, so long foretold and pic-

tured. The city of Jerusalem was crowded with the tens of thousands of visitors from all over Palestine. Dr. B. H. Carroll thought that perhaps a million people may have passed by during the six hours Jesus hung on the cross. At any rate, they represented the whole lost race, the people of the world, the old and young, the learned and ignorant, the rich and the poor. Here is the world that knew not God. Here are those of whom it was said, "He came unto his own, and his own received him not." Here, in that restless, curious, head-wagging, sight-seeing, scornful crowd is a little sample of the poor, fallen human race, an estranged, blinded race, alien from God! Here is man who has eaten the forbidden fruit. Here is man who has run to hide himself from God and did not want to keep God in his knowledge. Here is man cast out of Eden. Here is dying mankind, a race which must deal with an accursed earth, a race that does not know the way of peace, a race whose individuals go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies.

The cross is to them foolishness, because these are "they that perish," those who have not trusted Christ, do not know the value of Jesus' blood. Of these it is said, "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14). And so the mass of humanity today despises the cross. It is not precious to them. They have no real conception of its meaning.

A magazine runs a symposium of what teen-age youngsters think is the cause and cure of child delinquency! How would they know? Even the wisest of the race, who do not know God, cannot explain the wickedness of the human heart and knows no remedy for the sins of men and thus the ills of men.

A scientist has a degree in chemistry or in engineering or in biology, and forthwith he gives an opinion about God and religion and morality! How would they know? Even the wisest of the race, who do not know God, cannot explain the wickedness of the human heart and knows no remedy for the sins of men and thus the ills of men.

A group of prominent people, businessmen, politicians, philosophers, entertainers, all contribute to a book, *This I Believe*, a symposium of doctrinal convictions. And nearly all of it is blind, presumptuous, ignorant guesswork by people who are spiritually blind, people that are to perish, knowing not God, to whom the preaching of the cross is foolishness!

Yes, the crowd, "they that passed by," reviled Jesus and said, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross."

2. The Chief Priests of God's Temple Also Said, "Come Down From the Cross"

Jesus hangs on the cross, God's dying Lamb, and here come the priests of the temple. They have been set apart from birth to conduct the ceremonies and the sacrifices and attend the symbolic rites in the temple, all of which pointed to the Saviour's coming and to His death on the cross.

At the morning sacrifice the lamb was slain, and another in the evening. They represented Jesus. Every firstling of a flock offered in sacrifice was slain on an altar and the priests caught the blood. On the day of atonement they took the blood of the sacrifice into the holy of holies and sprinkled it there on the mercy seat.

At the passover season every year, just as now this afternoon as Jesus hangs on the cross, the families of Israel kill passover lambs, the priests presiding. Every scapegoat, every turtle dove, every pigeon, every bullock, every red heifer, every meat offering ever brought to the temple had pictured Jesus Christ! It is Jesus who is the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. It is Jesus who is the burden-bearing

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Bullock sacrificed for others. It is Jesus who is the pure and sinless white pigeon dying, the innocent for the guilty. It is Jesus who is the morning turtle dove, the Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. Poor, blinded priests who all their lifetime had dealt with these holy object lessons, now see no sense to the crucifixion. To them it is foolishness. They mocked and taunted Jesus saying, "Come down from the cross."

These priests go daily into the holy temple. There, on the left hand is the golden lampstand, or candelabrum." The seven lamps pictured Christ, the perfection of God. Those lamps burned pure beaten olive oil, and they pictured Christ as the Light of the world, Christ coming to minister in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the priests see that the lamps in the temple on the golden lampstand never go out, and yet here they are blinded, they do not see Jesus as the Light of the world! The cross is to them foolishness.

On the right hand as they go into the holy place every day, is the table of shewbread. There, on every sabbath day, twelve freshly baked loaves of bread are laid. They picture Christ, the Bread of life, the Bread come down from Heaven. But the priests, poor, blinded, calloused, unconverted priests know it not. I do not wonder that blind, unconverted modernists would mistranslate the Bible. They callously deal with holy things which they do not understand, just as did these chief priests who mocked Jesus and said, "Come down from the cross."

Behind the curtain which shuts off the Most Holy Place is the mercy seat. It is a plate of gold overlaying the ark of the covenant. In that ark of the covenant originally there were the twelve tables of the law, written by the hand of God. Christ was the fulfillment of the law. In that ark of the covenant was Aaron's rod that budded miraculously. And Aaron, the first high priest, only pictured our own great High Priest Jesus Christ who is a Priest forever after the order of Melchizedec, not with a priesthood that passes away like that of Aaron, and of these same priests who mocked Him!

The furniture of the temple all pointed to Jesus. The great brazen altar in the court pictured the judgment of God on sin. There the sacrifices were slain and the bodies were burned on the altar, which pictured the wrath of God falling on Christ our Sacrifice. The wood in the table of shewbread and in the brazen altar pictured the humanity of Christ. The brass of the great altar pictured our sins for which He suffered. The gold that plated the table of shewbread and plated the ark of the covenant and composed the mercy seat, that gold pictured Christ's deity, for He is the God-man. But these chief priests knew it not! To these who are to perish, these unbelievers, the preaching of the cross is foolishness. So they mocked Jesus and said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."

These chief priests denied His deity. They went on to say, "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God."

What will God do with preachers who stand at holy desks and pretend to preach the Gospel, but do not believe that Jesus is the virgin-born Son of God? What will God do with people who are in places of leadership in religion and yet do not believe in the atoning blood of the cross? Oh, to them will be the same curse on their false religion that is to come to these priests. Their temple is to be destroyed. They themselves will be scattered to the ends of the earth. God's judgment

(Continued on page 8)

From the new book by this militant, evangelical Methodist minister of more than 55 years, 33 of them at Trinity Methodist in Los Angeles.



Bob Shuler Met These On the Trail

"Bob" Evans

The man who does a necessary job well is necessary.

Years ago there came the way of Trinity Methodist Church, which church I had the joy of serving as pastor for thirty-three years, a man as unusual as his position is supposedly commonplace. He was the caretaker. In fact, he never was certain just what he was. When the pipe organ went "fooey" in the middle of the Sunday morning service, he dove into the insides of the thing and fixed it in time for the next hymn. When the public address system began to give off a whistle, he seized the right wire at the right place, turned buttons, grabbed knobs, and kept the saints in touch with the sermon. When the young people broke chairs, knocked out window-panes, and wrecked the "house of the Lord" in general, he surveyed the havoc with knitted brow, wondered just what this social gospel that made the church into a gymnasium is, anyway, and then set about putting it shipshape for the next cyclonic ebullition of youth, a la this modern day!

Sometimes when his blood pressure got too high, he went up to his apartment, sat down, remembered that there was a war on, and felt sorry for the boys who had to shoot a jungle to pieces in order to find a Jap.

This man was the source of information to which at least a hundred "old ladies" and a thousand of the rest of us went weekly for what we did not know or could not find. He helped me with my spelling when I wrote my articles for *The Methodist Challenge*. He instructed my wife on cooking. He listened as intently as the committeemen themselves while a new soprano did her audition. He had his own opinion as to whether Dr. Householder, then associate pastor of Trinity, or I preached the best sermons, and wisely kept that opinion to himself.

Years ago he was spending two weeks' vacation with his wife in a mountain resort. Someone asked him as to his line of work. He replied, "I am associated with Trinity Methodist Church in Los Angeles." The next day he received an invitation to conduct divine services in the little community chapel. He insisted that his church expected him to rest absolutely while away, to be in shape for his responsibilities when he got back. Under those conditions, he was excused.

Bob Evans was not always the caretaker of a church. Once he operated a large office in the East and had his own business. He had secretaries and helpers. He was worth money. He lost the money but he did not lose that which had drawn men to him in the days of his prosperity. He started to California in a steam-propelled Cadillac. It burned up on the way. He landed in Hollywood and for years worked with the movie people. They liked him better than he liked them. He decided that he would try going to church for a change. And that's how we came to discover this many-sided, contagious human dynamo.

Nobody thought of Bob Evans as the caretaker of Trinity Church. It would not have jarred anyone, nor would a question have been asked, if his name should have appeared on the bulletin as the general manager of the institution. Whatever he needed that he could not buy, he made. When the rest of us gave up in despair and knew that it couldn't be done, we met Evans, told him of our grief, and he did it. A great downtown church tried to take him from us. He replied that he was "a fixture down there, just like the seating."

I never had the nerve to call on Bob Evans to lead in prayer. I have no idea what his reaction would have been. But I asked him to do almost every other thing conceivable about Trinity Church. He never failed me. When I get to Heaven, I expect to find him right in the midst of things, hunting a leak in the roof, screwing an electric light bulb in a ceiling forty feet high, getting the dust out of a pipe organ flute, repairing a harp for use in the orchestra, and doing a thousand other things better than I could do them to save my life. And if I should not locate him at once, I'd be certain that the great Master had sent him on a "trouble-shooting" mission, and that when he returned there'd be one more job well done.

I can truthfully say that I wish I had done the job as well in the pulpit as Bob Evans did it all over and all through the whole church.

However, I would not have you who read feel that this man is too saintly. I doubt if he is a saint. I have seen him, when surrounded by a bunch of women, the tables not being exactly to their liking, try for a few moments to listen to eight or ten of them at one time; then, as though suddenly remembering something, "shoot" upstairs into his apartment. I have wondered just what he said after he was safely within the door and it shut. Anyway, he had a happy, Christian trait, in that, after a few moments, he appeared, fixed the tables as eighteen different women wanted them fixed and then finished up by finally leaving them as he had them at first.

For years, Bob Evans carried on a feud with certain "roughneck" boys, among them my own youngsters. (One of these boys became pastor of Trinity and Bob Evans was his "right arm.") He showed them no mercy at times. He "roasted" them for their destruction of property, gave them a "tongue lashing" for their unnecessary noise about the church, and soundly reproved them on many occasions and for many derelictions. But as the years came and went, I noted that these boys, growing into manhood, became increasingly fond of "the caretaker." I watched them with their arms around him, heard their warm greetings, and noted the genuineness of their affections. He was the most lovable "hard-boiled guy" I ever saw in action.

In my opinion, he was a greater success than President Roosevelt!

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"Come Down From the Cross"

(Continued from page 7)

is on every religion that does not recognize the cross of Jesus Christ as God's atonement for man's sin, the only way to peace and salvation, the only way to God.

What about all those who are so religious that they carry crucifixes, and yet do not depend upon the blood of the cross, do not come directly to God through Christ? What about all these who have a mass, and think that they offer a new sacrifice in the bread and wine and yet they have never put their trust in the sacrifice already made, once and forever, by which Christ paid for sin? These chief priests, who mocked Jesus and said "Come down from the cross," did not recognize this truth.

"And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering often times the same sacrifices, which

can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified."—Heb. 10:11-14.

What good is it to have a formal worship service, to have an altar, to have a crucifix, to have stained glass windows and pipe organ, and stately forms of worship, where the cross is foolishness? where people do not look to the blood of the Saviour? So it was with these priests who mocked Jesus.

They were very religious. They paid tithes of all they possessed, even of mint, anise, and cummin. They fasted twice a week. They prayed long and loud and in pub-

lic places. They gave alms to be seen of men. Even when they came to press for the crucifixion of the hated Lord Jesus, these religious men were so religious that they demanded the body be taken down before the high sabbath day! These religious folk had had their vengeance on Jesus, they had seen His suffering. Now they insisted that their ceremonies be kept sacred. "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away" (John 19:31).

It is sad but true that Hell will be full of people who were religious, who prayed, who went through forms of service, who learned catechisms, who made the sign of the cross, who gave alms to the poor. To multitudes Jesus Himself has said that He will say: "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:23).

These are they who make clean the outside of the cup and platter, but inside are full of all excess. Here are people who can tithe mint, anise, and cummin, but who neglected the weightier matters of mercy, faith, and judgment. Here are leaders, but they are blind leaders. They, with all they lead, will fall into the ditch.

God have mercy on denominations which put into authority and leadership unconverted men who are not under the blood, these who are to perish, thinking only that the preaching of the cross is foolishness. They have a "social gospel" about which they are very much concerned, but they do not believe the Gospel that Christ gave us. They preach another gospel and Paul says about them "let them be damned." He said, by divine inspiration:

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed."—Gal 1:6-9.

These priests represent a great group of people who are religious, but lost. They have turned over a new leaf, perhaps, but have never been given supernaturally a new heart. They may have taken Jesus as an example, perhaps, but they never knew Him as their own atoning Saviour. Hence they cry, "Come down from the cross."

3. The Scribes, Copyists and Students of the Old Testament Also Said It

There were no printed Bibles in Jesus' day, of course, because there were no printing presses. Every parchment roll of any book of the Scriptures had to be copied meticulously by hand. These scribes had carefully trained themselves to do this. Every word was copied so carefully. The letters in each line were counted and we are told that if any mistake was made the whole sheet was done over. Oh, they watched the Hebrew letters well and copied the words accurately! How strange that they did not see on every page of the Old Testament Scriptures the coming Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ who would die for man's sins! How could they say to Him, "Come down from the cross"?

So Dr. George Buttrick can scoff at the Scripture, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree," as he did scoff openly in his book, *The Christian Fact and Modern Doubt*, pages 173, 174, and affirms boldly that he joins the skeptics in saying, "Your God is my Devil." Who are these "scholars" but aftertypes of the same scribes and Bible copyists who mocked Jesus on the cross, who did not believe in His atonement, and thought the preaching of the cross foolishness because they themselves were doomed to perish in unbelief?

But they did. They, with the priests, said, mocking Him, "If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him." They did not believe Him. They taunted Him that God would not own Him. They said, "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God."

It was these same scribes, or others like them, who were called with the priests to Herod's palace when the wise men came from the east saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him." So King Herod demanded "of

them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel" (Matt. 2:4-6).

You see, they knew Micah 5:2 and the promise that the Saviour should be born in Bethlehem.

They knew the promise of Isaiah 7:14, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." They knew that the word was virgin also, because they had it in their own Septuagint translation, translated from the Hebrew to the Greek by other scribes and Jewish scholars like themselves. And in the Septuagint the Greek word they used was *parthenos*, which could not mean anything but virgin. Later, after the resurrection of Christ, when the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus were thrown in their faces they would set out to twist the Scriptures, change the commentaries, change the lexicons. Later they would say that the Hebrew word *almah* did not mean virgin, but meant young woman. And other infidels would take it up and in modern times the lexicons would be changed and the translators of the Revised Standard Version would follow these same unbelieving scribes. But these scribes knew the promises of the virgin birth of the coming Saviour.

They knew that according to Zechariah 9:9, the Saviour, the Messiah, would ride into Jerusalem upon a colt the foal of an ass, just as Jesus had done just a few days before His triumphal entry! They knew, for they had copied it many, many times from Deuteronomy 18:15, the promise of Moses that "The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee . . ." These scribes and the priests had asked of John, "Art thou that prophet?" (John 1:21).

These scribes had copied many times the wonderful fifty-third chapter of Isaiah and their best rabbis had explained to them that it pointed to a coming Messiah by whose stripes we should be healed and should bear our sins and iniquities. Oh, strange, wicked blindness on these scribes that the cross was to them foolishness! And so they said to Jesus, "Come down from the cross."

What will God say to "scholars" who pretend to teach the Bible and think themselves qualified to judge it, to criticise it, to divide books up and say what mythical authors wrote the portions and what "redactor" or editor collected the fragments together? What will God say to these modern scribes who are blind and perishing as those who mocked Jesus on the cross? These religious men who have the letter without the Spirit, who have the words, but no faith? So, Bishop Oxnam can say that the God of the Old Testament, who would demand an atoning sacrifice, is a "dirty bully," and says that one who says so is justified if God is to demand His "Shylockian pound of flesh," that is, an atonement for sin! (See *Preaching in a Revolutionary Age*, page 79.)

So Dr. George Buttrick can scoff at the Scripture, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed

is everyone that hangeth on a tree," as he did scoff openly in his book, *The Christian Fact and Modern Doubt*, pages 173, 174, and affirms boldly that he joins the skeptics in saying, "Your God is my Devil." Who are these "scholars" but aftertypes of the same scribes and Bible copyists who mocked Jesus on the cross, who did not believe in His atonement, and thought the preaching of the cross foolishness because they themselves were doomed to perish in unbelief?

We do not say that these men know fully what they do. Remember that Jesus prayed about those who reviled Him, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." And so of these unconverted scholars the Scripture is true, that the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know

them, because they are spiritually discerned" (I Cor. 2:14).

Nels F. S. Ferre can pose as a saint with new light and say pious words about God's *agape* and then say blasphemously that to worship Christ is idolatry, can say that Christ probably sinned, and that Christ is an umbrella who shuts out the true light of God from those who worship Him, can say that Christ may have been "the son of a blond German soldier." Yes, to all of these who perish in unbelief, "the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness . . ." They all say to Jesus, in effect, "Come down from the cross."

In God's dear name, reader, do you stand with these who taunt the dying Saviour and say, "Come down from the cross"?

4. The Elders, the Rulers of the People Also Derided Jesus and Said, "Come Down From the Cross"

In Matthew 27:41 the elders are mentioned: "Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said . . ." In Luke 23:35 we are told, ". . . And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God." We suppose that these two terms are used about the same people. They were, we suppose, members of the Sanhedrin, the elected elders and rulers in spiritual matters, and in many other matters left to them by the Roman governor.

Oh, these elders and rulers took their position very seriously. They represent leaders of public thought. They were in the public eye. People looked to them for leadership. The common people knew that these same rulers and elders wanted to kill Jesus and they said, "Is not this he, whom they seek to kill? But, lo, he speaketh boldly, and they say nothing unto him. Do the rulers know indeed that this is the very Christ?" (John 7:25, 26).

But the Pharisees used these same rulers and elders as evidence against Jesus. They answered back the officers and said, "Are ye also deceived? Have any of the rulers or of the Pharisees believed on him? But this people who knoweth not the law are cursed" (John 7:47-49).

It is sad but true that not many of the mighty in the world are Christians. These rulers and elders represent the organization and civilization of this world. Jesus promised to send to His disciples, those who obeyed Him, the blessed Holy Spirit "whom the world cannot receive" (John 14:17).

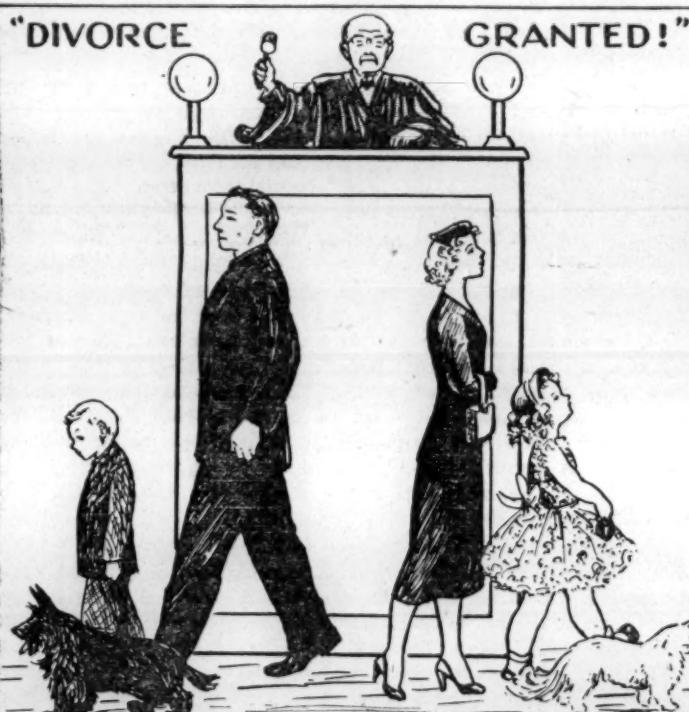
It is sadly true that Satan, the god of this world, so often blinds the leaders in this world so that Paul was led to say, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them" (II Cor. 4:3, 4).

That is just another way of saying what God says so many times in the Bible, the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness. The natural man cannot understand the things of God. The more one is occupied and enamored of this world, the more he is blinded to the cross and salvation by the blood of Jesus.

We may have a Southern Baptist in the White House and then find that he is profane, a whisky drinker, a socialist. We may find that Alger Hiss and his kind represent us in the United Nations.

But thank God not all these leaders of the people mocked Jesus. We note two of them. Joseph of Arimathea, and Nicodemus who had come earlier to Jesus by night. And now they come to claim the body of Jesus after He dies and take Him down. These two were not of them that perish. These two were weak and fearful, but they were not blinded by the god of this world. They trusted in the atoning blood shed that blessed day on Calvary. We are so glad that God raises up some other noble men and women in high places who believe the Gospel. I am glad that President Woodrow Wilson was a simple, earnest believer, a converted child

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of God, a lay preacher; as was Lloyd George of England. I am glad that our President, Eisenhower, made an open, public profession of faith in Christ and is a man of prayer. When he was with Billy Graham he asked earnest questions about the whole matter of the Gospel. Billy Graham preaches, I understand. I have hopes that the Queen of England may be genuinely converted, as I think her mother and father were before her and at least her grandmother, Queen Mary. Some of the leaders have Jesus Christ and trust Him.

5. The Soldiers, Too, Representing the Government, Mocked Jesus

In Luke 23:36 and 37 we are told, "And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar, And saying, If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."

It seems that God planned every detail about the crucifixion. It seems as if He marched all mankind by the cross of Jesus and made them take their position and brand themselves with their faults. So the Roman soldiers here, who represented Pilate and the Roman emperor, the official executioners of Jesus, mocked Him also and urged Him to come down from the cross.

These are the same soldiers who had taken off of Jesus His own garments, had put on Him a scarlet robe, had made for Him a crown of thorns, and had put in His hand a reed for a scepter. These same soldiers had bowed before Him in mocked humility and said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" Then they had blindfolded Him, spit upon Him, and plucked out His beard. Striking Him they said, "Prophesy, who is it that smote thee?"

One day the kings of this earth will fall. One day Jesus, the Smiling Stone will come again and smite and destroy that great image seen by Nebuchadnezzar, representing the governments and kingdoms of this earth.

The governments of this earth as a whole have generally been against the Gospel. Do you think it strange that China is closed to the Gospel? Do you think it strange Russia is vigorously pressing atheism down the throats of the people? Well, remember that nearly everywhere Paul preached he landed in jail and that eventually he had his head cut off. Remember that the Roman government, with the approval of the Jewish leaders, crucified the Lord of Glory. Now they mock at the crucifixion. The preaching of the

cross is to them that perish foolishness. They say, "If thou be the king of the Jews, save thyself."

In the preceding verse we are told that the rulers had derided Jesus saying, ". . . let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God," but these soldiers were not thinking of a Messiah. They were thinking only about a ruler. They scoffed at Jesus because the Roman Empire has the victory over the Jewish Pretender of the line of David! Ah, but one day, thank God, every knee shall bow to Him. Meantime, how sad that these soldiers missed the point of the cross and missed the salvation purchased there!

6. The Thieves Crucified With Jesus "Cast the Same in His Teeth"

There is a proverb, we think of doubtful truth, which says, "There is honor among thieves."

One would think that of all the people to have sympathy for Jesus, and to surely understand about how He came to the cross, it would be these same two thieves, these malefactors crucified, the one on the right hand and the other on the left hand of Jesus. Did they not know that He was different from them? Did they not know that He was falsely accused? Had they no feeling for the betrayed, insulted, blasphemed and forsaken Son of man? No, they joined the crowd and others who taunted and mocked Jesus and said, "Come down from the cross." Others said it and then "The thieves . . . cast the same in his teeth." Those spiteful words indicate a venom that is surprising.

Luke tells us that one of the thieves went further and railed on Jesus. "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us." He thought that he had more at stake as to whether Christ would come down from the cross, than the mocking crowd. If Christ should come down from the cross perhaps He would take this sinner by His side down from the cross also! So he thought only of himself. In some way he blamed Jesus that he was to receive the proper punishment for his sins. Though he was about to die, there was no penitence, no confession, no seeking of mercy. He railed on Jesus. He cared nothing for the meaning of the cross. That was foolishness to him as it is to all who perish. The natural man savoreth not the things of God. All he was thinking about was saving his own skin.

That poor dying thief is a type and picture of all who think first of present enjoyment, the immediate end, and the neglect of eternal values. How many think much of their job and little of their immortal soul! How many think much of today, and none at all of the eternal tomorrow! How many would sell all future glory and blessedness for a few hours of ribald pleasure in sin now!

"She that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth" (I Tim. 5:6), says the Word of God. And strangely enough he who came to such an end had doubtless lived for pleasure, lived for the day, lived for his lusts and passions and self-will. He had taken little thought for the morrow, none at all, we suppose, for his poor, immortal, lost soul. And now he scoffed at the Lamb of God crucified beside him, and railed on Him like the others, urging Jesus to come down from the cross. But one thief, remember, repented soon and changed his tune, trusting Jesus for salvation.

2. But Satan the Deceiver Was Back of This Cry, "Come Down From the Cross"

No doubt you have been impressed, as I am impressed, with the fact that unsaved people everywhere, those that will perish in sin, do not think much of the cross of Jesus Christ. Even those who believe that Christ is the Lamb of God care nothing about it. They have no love for Christ, no reverence for His blood. They do not accept the salvation so freely offered. They scorn the mercy that God would give. They do not receive the kiss of forgiveness. They willingly stay in the far country estranged from the Father. They go, perhaps, into the hogpen of want,

after wasting their substance in riotous living, but they do not run home to the open arms and the glad embraces and feasting, the ring of sonship, and the rejoicing which waits at the Father's house!

Why this unanimity among those that saw Jesus on the cross? How does it come that with one heart, one voice, they seem to scorn the cross and say to Jesus, "Come down from the cross"?

There is one simple answer. That is the cry of Satan himself. He hates the cross of Christ with an unholly hatred. He always has. He blinds the eyes of people, does this god of this world, lest they should hear and heed the blessed Gospel. Consider how Satan through all the human life of Jesus had dreaded the cross and tried to avoid the proper offering of Christ as the atonement for the sins of the world.

1. Satan Had Tried to Kill Jesus to Avoid the Successful Conclusion of His Earthly Mission

Was it not Satan in the dark and evil mind of King Herod who prompted the murder of all the babes of Bethlehem? Herod thought that he would eliminate a threatened rival for the kingship of Judea. But Satan well knew that he had a far greater stake. If he could kill the Baby Jesus it would mean the end of this business of redemption, the failure of God's plan to save sinners. It would mean Satan's final and eternal dominion over every creature of the human race! Oh, how Satan's hate showed itself in the spears of the soldiers who went through the little town of Bethlehem killing boy babies!

It was Satan who entered into the Jews in Nazareth, when Jesus came back from His baptism in Jordan, to begin His public ministry. Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit. He preached in the synagogue mightily, condemning the sin of these who had known Him since early childhood. And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath. And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way" (Luke 4:28-30). They would have killed Him. Perhaps many of these later, thinking about it, thought strangely of that unholly fury that had possessed them. Perhaps the saner people among them wondered why they had been as people possessed to murder the Son of their neighbor Mary and the foster son of the carpenter Joseph. Well, that unholly fury was the work of Satan who wanted to kill Jesus and stop His ministry before He should come to the cross.

More than once we are told that when Jesus preached, "Pharisees took up stones to stone him." Why? Willing, perhaps, but ignorantly also, for they were the tools of the furious hate which that fallen angel, Lucifer, Satan, the accuser, that enemy of God and enemy of the souls of men, had for Jesus. Oh, if he could only stop Jesus before He got to the cross to pay for the sins of the world! It was Satan who said, "Come down from the cross."

2. Satan Had the Same Plan When He Tempted Jesus in the Wilderness

In Matthew 4 and Luke 4 we read the story of how Jesus, filled with the Spirit, was led into the wilderness to be tempted of Satan. Satan tempted Him to make bread for His hunger after forty days of fasting. Satan tempted Him to leap off the temple in a great display before the people, but Jesus answered him, the second time, with Scripture. Then Satan showed his hand. He took Jesus to a high mountain and showed Him the kingdoms of the world and he said, "All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine" (Luke 4:6, 7).

Satan is the god of this world. He is the illegal usurper over the hearts and lives of men, over the kingdoms of this world. He offered Jesus this; if Jesus would bow down and worship him (Satan), then Jesus could reign over the

kingdoms of the earth and He could do it without going to the cross! To detour around the cross, that was the thing! If Jesus would take the kingdoms of this world without redeeming men, Satan would accept Him then as his agent.

But Jesus scorned the offer and went straight along the path the Father had appointed Him, to die for the sins of the world. Oh, the dear Saviour will one day come to rule on David's throne. One day the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ. But Jesus did not take His appointed reign the easy way. First He must pay for man's sins. How Satan hated the cross!

3. Satan Tried Desperately to Make the Death of Jesus Come Short of the Prophesied Plan

If Satan could not keep Jesus from going on to death, he would try to make that death of no avail.

You see, Satan knows what many men have never found out; that the death of Christ had to be exactly according to the Scriptures. The blessed Gospel which Paul preached, and the Gospel by which all of us are saved, if indeed we be saved at all, is this: ". . . how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3, 4). The death of Jesus Christ must be "according to the scriptures." His resurrection from the dead must be "according to the scriptures"! Mark this well; any Christ who is not the Christ foretold in the Old Testament is no Christ at all. Any failure of the Word of God means the failure of Jesus Christ. There is no Christianity, but a fake and imitation with an illegitimate and false gospel, except that which is based on the literal, absolute accuracy of the Word of God. It was foretold in the Old Testament exactly how Jesus should die. Jesus was to be of the seed of David. He was to be born of a virgin in the town of Bethlehem. He must ride into Jerusalem upon a colt the foal of an ass. He must suddenly appear in His temple. He must die as a passover Lamb at the very time the passover lambs were being slain on "the day of the preparation." The 53rd chapter of Isaiah, the 22nd Psalm and many other Scriptures, must be fulfilled to the letter.

But Satan, all unseen, watches that dreadful spectacle of the Sav-

ior on the cross, with two thieves beside Him, hounded and taunted by the sneers of the multitude. Satan remembers the last night in the Garden of Gethsemane that Jesus knelt and was overcome with sorrow. In the garden the strain, the torment of soul, the frailty of His body all had begun to overcome Him. In an agony He prayed and the sweat burst from His body. And that sweat became blood. The capillaries were breaking down. His great, pure heart was about to break. Jesus was about to die. His soul was "exceeding sorrowful, even unto death" (Matt. 26:38). That could mean nothing except that Jesus was at the point of death there in the Garden of Gethsemane. It was not at the right place, nor was it at the right time. It was not in the right manner. It was prophesied that the Saviour would die bearing the curse of those who hang on a tree (Deut. 21:23, John 19:31, Gal. 3:13). It was prophesied that they should pierce His hands and feet (Zech. 12:10, and 13:6). He must make His grave with the wicked and with the rich in His death: that is, He must die between two thieves and be buried in rich Joseph's grave. If the Scriptures failed, then Christ's redeeming mission has failed. Jesus could save no one unless He died at the proper time and in the proper place "according to the scriptures."

Oh, how Satan pressed upon the Saviour the attack that dreadful night in Gethsemane! But Jesus prayed again and again, saying the same words. He prayed not against the will of God, but in the will of God. He prayed not for His

(Continued on page 10)

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"Come Down From the Cross"

(Continued from page 9)

own will, but for the Father's will. He prayed that He might be delivered from death that night.

I think that is made quite clear from the words of Hebrews 5:7, "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared." Jesus prayed and was heard. Angels ministered to Him and strengthened Him and He lived through that sad night and the trial to die at the appointed time and place on the cross. Oh, how Satan hated the cross! How he had tried to thwart it.

Later this same dreadful crucifixion day, Satan will try again to make vain the death of Christ, to thwart the crucifixion and make it fall short of that essential Bible pattern clearly foretold. Satan tried to have the legs of Jesus broken and so make Him unfit to be the pattern for the passover lambs that had been slain for fifteen hundred years.

In John 19:31 we are told, "The Jews therefore, because it was the preparation, that the bodies should not remain upon the cross on the sabbath day, (for that sabbath day was an high day,) besought Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away."

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first thief, and of the other on the other side of Jesus. But when they came to Jesus they saw that He was dead already and "they brake not his legs." Instead a soldier pierced His side and we are told "For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken. And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced" (John 19:36, 37).

For fifteen hundred years godly Jews had very carefully slain and dressed the lambs for the passover feast. In every case the lamb must be a male lamb, of the first year and without blemish. It must be roasted whole with fire and bitter herbs, but with no water, and not a bone must be broken! The instructions had been clear in the law of Moses (Exod. 12:46 and Num. 9:12). Zechariah 12:10 had prophesied, "... and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him ..." Now if Satan could have Jesus' legs broken and have Him slain, have Him die without the piercing of His side, the Scriptures would be broken, Christ would not be an acceptable lamb for the sacrifice and the whole scheme and plan of God at Calvary would be ruined! How Satan wished it! But God overruled, Jesus fulfilled the law and the promises, made the perfect atonement in man's place, bore all the curse, and thanks be to God, redemption's plan was successfully completed!

So, it was Satan, thwarted and defeated, yet always struggling, who put it into the heart of everyone of those who said it to taunt Jesus and cry out, "Come down from the cross."

It was Satan who had put it in the heart of Simon Peter to rebuke Jesus and try to persuade Him not to go to the cross, as we see in Matthew 16:22. But Jesus said to Peter, "Get thee behind me, Satan." He knew that it was really Satan who had planned all along to defeat the crucifixion. And now, as Jesus hangs on the cross, stripped naked, bruised and beaten, between two common criminals, held up to public shame, and taunted by the multitude, He knew that it was Satan who objected to the crucifixion. How Satan hates the blood of Christ, that precious atoning blood poured out at Calvary! My, how Satan hates that wonderful plan of salvation by grace through the mercy of God, offered to sinners because of the merit of Christ's own sacrifice!

III. What if Jesus Had Had to Come Down From the Cross?

Jesus did not come down from the cross. He died in the will of God. He fulfilled the Scriptures. He paid man's debt; He bore man's curse; He purchased man's

redemption. Hallelujah! But what if Jesus had come down from the cross?

1. He Could Have Come Down

Jesus did not have to die on the cross. Again and again He made it clear that His was a voluntary offering of Himself to pay for the sins of the world. He was not a martyr. He was not a victim of circumstances.

Jesus called Himself, "the good shepherd" and in John 10 He repeated more than once His intention to lay down His life for the sheep. In verse 11 He said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

In verse 15 He said, "As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep." Again He said, "Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father" (John 10:17, 18).

Those who look at the Gethsemane prayer think that they find Jesus shrinking from the cross. It was His deliberate plan to lay down His life as a sacrifice for others. So, since it was His own choice, Jesus did not have to die. He could have come down from the cross.

When Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane He told Peter to put up the sword and said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?" (Matt. 26:53, 54). Jesus was not compelled to go to the cross. He could have prayed the Father and would have had immediately twelve armies of angels to take Him from the hands of the Romans and the angry mob. But Jesus did not resist the authority because He planned to die. He laid down His life. He could have come down from the cross, but did not.

When Jesus stood before Pilate and refused to talk and plead for Himself, to defend Himself, He was simply taking the prophesied part of the lamb led to the slaughter and of the sheep before her shearers is dumb. Pilate sharply said to him, "Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee?" (John 19:10).

But Jesus knew better than that. Jesus answered, Thou couldst have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin" (John 19:11). Yes, Jesus could have come down from the cross. What if He had?

2. If Jesus Had Come Down From the Cross, Then We Must All Be Eternally Damned

If Jesus had not died on the cross, then every living soul in the world must die, not only die the first death, but die the second death: "For the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

If Jesus had not borne the curse, then all of us would have borne eternally the curse. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree" (Gal. 3:13).

Jesus was scourged in our place. He was wounded for our transgressions and with His stripes we are healed. But if Jesus had not taken the stripes and the wounds, then they should have been upon us, all the human race, "Eye for eye, tooth for tooth . . . burning for burning . . . stripe for stripe."

On the cross the dear Lord Jesus underwent the awful punishment of having God the Father turn His face away. He cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Why? Jesus knew why, but He said it for our sakes. God turned His back on Jesus because on Him were all the sins of the world. God had to turn His back on sin. If Jesus had not borne ostracism from God, had not been separated from God and thus tasted eternal death for all,

then all of us must have died ourselves and have been eternally away from the face of God!

Oh, what if Jesus had come down from the cross! In my heart today the blessed Holy Spirit has put the cry of a child for his own beloved Father and my heart cries, "Abba, Father."

*My God is reconciled,
His pard'ning voice I hear;
He owns me for His child,
I can no longer fear:
With confidence I now draw nigh,
And "Father, Abba, Father!" cry,
And "Father, Abba, Father!" cry.*

But this is only possible because the debt has been paid, the guilt has been covered by the blood. My sins were eternally settled for by Jesus Christ on the cross and now I look up to God unafraid and He calls me His own dear child!

Christ was forsaken that I might not be forsaken. He suffered that I might be glad. He took what I deserved, so that I might take what He deserved! God counted Jesus a sinner when He was not, so He can count me a saint, just, though by nature I am not just!

How true was the statement the Pharisees, scribes, and elders made when they taunted Jesus and mocked Him saying, "He saved others; himself he cannot save." Yes, if He had saved Himself He could not have saved others. So, He stayed on the cross and saved others and paid the debt for sin. Thank God Jesus did not come down!

3. What Held Jesus to the Cross?

Why then did Jesus not come down from the cross? It was not the nails of iron that held Him there. The tomb, sealed with a Roman seal, could not hold Him when He rose from the dead. So, it was not the nails, not the authority of Rome. Then what held Jesus so steadily there on the cross, to suffer the torments of the damned, to have the Father turn His face away, and to die and pay for my debt?

Well, suppose we say that there were four spiritual nails that held Jesus to the cross.

First of all, He was in agreement with the Father before the world began. In Revelation 13:8 He is called "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world." So some tremendous transaction took place between the Father and the Son before the world began. They exchanged promises each to the other. The Father promised eternal life to those who would trust in Christ. So inspiration tells us, "Paul, a servant of God . . . In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began" (Titus 1:1, 2).

But Jesus made a promise, too, to the Father. I think that promise is referred to in II Timothy 1:1, "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus."

Jesus had an agreement with the Father and He kept this promise. That was one nail that held Him to the cross.

Another "nail" that held Him to the cross was His Word, the Bible. Again and again in the Scriptures about the crucifixion we find these words, "that the scriptures might be fulfilled." With holy zeal the Lord Jesus came to fulfill the letter of the Scriptures. He "died for our sins according to the scriptures," then He was buried and "rose again . . . according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3, 4). The integrity of the Bible and the integrity of Jesus Christ stand or fall together. Jesus is the Word of God in a man. The Bible is the Word of God in a book. The Word of God was a "nail" that held Jesus to the cross.

What held Jesus to the cross? Another "nail" was the will of God the Father. That was dearer to Him than anything else in the world. He said so when He came into the world; "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God" (Heb. 10:5-7). When Jesus left the upper room to go to the Garden of Gethsemane, the night He was betrayed, He said, "But that the world may know that I love the Father; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do. Arise, let us go hence" (John 14:31). The beloved command of His Father held Jesus to the cross.

Bridie Murphy and the Bible

(Continued from page 1)

all is that when the person is in this hypnotic trance, and supposed taking the actual personality that they had in a previous life, they actually speak the language or dialect of the land they claim to be from. Bridie Murphy actually speaks with an Irish accent. Bernstein claims to have hypnotized another young businessman back into a previous life as an American Indian and the young man spoke in an Indian dialect that has been extinct for many years. A short while ago a well-known television program carried the experience of a man said to have been taken back about two

hundred eighty years, and the man was to have lived in Germany and actually spoke and answered in German and did not speak German in normal life. Remember this strange fact about the language for it is a vital point of this message. A man in England claims to have successfully hypnotized over thirteen hundred people back into previous lives, according to the *Chicago Daily News*. Another person, who is afraid of elevators and high places, says he was a Chinese Army officer over four hundred years ago and died from falling off a cliff and

(Continued on page 11)

thaera who had long been a coward, but a disciple, now came boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. He wanted to take it down and bury it publicly in his own new tomb! The crucifixion was not a matter of small moment to him, but precious and dear. Nicodemus came also. He helped to take down that poor, wounded, scarred body from the cross. He brought some spices to bury Jesus with. He did not ask Jesus to come down from the cross.

I said the thieves "cast the same in his teeth." And so they did for a while. But, thank God, one of them turned at last to the other and rebuked his railing, and asked Jesus for mercy. He said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." Jesus answered him, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:39-43). So, one dying thief got off the side of those who mocked at the cross and got on the side of those who put all their hope for joy and peace and salvation for time and eternity in the blood shed on that cross!

I join with them. All my hope of Heaven is that Jesus died in my place—my death. And what do you say, sinner? Do you scorn the cross? Is the death of Christ foolishness to you? Or will you, too, turn and say, like the dying thief, "Lord, remember me."

My message is done. If someone reads this who does not know for sure that your sins are forgiven, I beg you now to come face to face with the question and settle it once and forever. The price for your salvation is paid. God's anger is appeased. The just and proper wrath of God against sin has fallen on the innocent Lamb, His Son. Now if you will put your trust in Jesus Christ your sins will be forgiven, you will be taken into God's heart, God's arms, God's saving care. You will have eternal life. This is the plain promise of God.

If you will here and now turn from your sin and trust Christ as Saviour, I beg you to do three things. First, in your heart confess your sin to Christ and tell Him you will take Him as your Saviour, will depend upon Him alone to forgive and save and change your heart and make you right with God. Second, will you solemnly sign your name to the agreement below. Third, will you then copy that agreement in a letter and mail it to me at once. Will you do it?

Evangelist John R. Rice
Sword of the Lord
Wheaton, Illinois
Date
Dear Brother Rice:

I have read your sermon, "Come Down From the Cross," and I realize that I am a wicked sinner. I believe that Jesus Christ died in my place and paid for my sins and satisfied God's justice. I believe that He offers salvation freely to sinners. So, here and now I turn to Christ. I ask Him to forgive my sins and save my soul. This moment I trust Him, I rely upon Him, I commit myself to Him. I now believe in Him as my own personal Saviour. I will set out to live for Him beginning today, and will claim Him openly before men, as my Saviour.

Signed
Address

(From the book, *WATCHING JESUS*, by Dr. John R. Rice. Published by the Sword of the Lord Publishers, Wheaton, Illinois. Price, \$2.50.)

Bridey Murphy and the Bible

(Continued from page 10)

still carries that fear with him. What does all this mean? What is the answer to the questions raised in our minds by these weird happenings? I believe that when radio, the newspaper, and the television, are bringing these things into the homes of America and making them a major issue, it is time for God's Word to be opened and such issues met in the light of the Bible.

I. The Whole Story of Reincarnation Is Directly Opposite to the Teaching of the Bible

We can be sure that reincarnation is not a reality because such a thing is directly opposite to the teaching of God's Word. There are some books that you may agree or disagree with just as your pleasure is, but when you disagree with the Bible you can be sure that you are wrong. I have some books in my study that I may not agree with on every point, but I must always agree with the Bible or I must never step behind the pulpit again. The Bible is God's Book, therefore it is not to be disagreed with by anyone, regardless of his worldly wisdom or his popular opinions.

Reincarnation does away with God's dealing with the individual. The Bible says that everyone shall give an account of "himself" before God, but reincarnation would teach that you are not just an individual but may be several over the course of a few hundred years. The Scripture says in Amos 4:12, "Prepare to meet THY God." This indicates a personal interview, but reincarnation would teach just the opposite to this, you see.

Reincarnation also does away with the need of being saved immediately. Surely the Bible makes plain again and again the need of receiving the Lord Jesus right now: Second Corinthians 6:2 says, "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." However, if reincarnation were the case, there would be no urgent need of being saved in this life, for some future life might suffice just as well, for a time to be saved.

Reincarnation does away with the plain Bible teaching of passing immediately into Heaven or immediately into Hell, after physical death. Jesus lifts the very lid off Hell for a few moments and shows a rich man in real torment. He has real pain and real thirst in a real Hell. He is even concerned about his lost brothers who are still living. He has passed immediately into Hell, not into another life to have another chance. Paul assures every Christian of immediately passing into the presence of Christ, after physical death, when he says in Philippians 1:21-23, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" and in II Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

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II. The Whole Story of Reincarnation Is in Line With the Methods of Satan

I have already heard some men say that this thing is just a hoax. I do not believe that it is a hoax of men but rather a hoax of Satan himself. Let us look for a few moments at the similarity to the methods of Satan.

Come with me tonight back into the Old Testament and watch King Saul as he is faced with a staggering problem and seems at a loss as to what to do. In I Samuel, chapter 28, you will find Saul in trouble with his enemy, the Philistines. Saul inquired of the Lord, but the Lord answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by the prophets. When Samuel was alive, Saul had been able to enquire of him what the Lord's will was, but now Samuel was dead and the Bible says that Saul's heart greatly trembled, because he was afraid. The Lord had warned Israel not to tolerate a person who had a familiar spirit to be in the land. Saul knew this because he had cut off those that had familiar spirits and wizards, out of the land. However the servants of Saul knew where he could find a woman with a familiar spirit and they led him to her. Then we find an interview taking place that is not of the Lord, but definitely of Satan. Saul received news from Samuel, all right, but it was the news of his own death, and the next day Saul died.

According to the hypnotist, when his subject answers, he actually takes on the personality of this individual who lived previously. In other words he is not talking to his subject at all but to the personality who lived many years ago. Bernstein gives an example when he says that in one of these sessions his hypnotized friend arose to a sitting position and sneezed. He says that at that time she seemed to persist in continuing to be Bridey Murphy and he became very frightened. If this is true it must be someone or something within the person who is answering rather than the person himself.

Move now into the New Testament, to Luke, chapter 8, and notice the incident in verses 26 to 36. Notice that this is just exactly the case in this portion of Scripture. In verses 28 to 31:

"When he saw Jesus, he cried out, and fell down before him, and with a loud voice said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God most high? I beseech thee, torment me not. (For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. For oftentimes it had caught him: and he was kept bound with chains and in fetters; and he brake the bands, and was driven of the devil into the wilderness.) And Jesus asked him, saying, What is thy name? And he said, Legion: because many devils were entered into him. And they besought him that he would not command them to go out into the deep."

This is not the maniac of Gadartha that answers Jesus but rather the spirits that are controlling him. Compare these two incidents and notice the similarity to the methods of Satan.

Turn now in your Bibles to Isaiah 14:13, 14, "For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High." This is a picture of Satan and shows his desire to copy God, or to be like God. Notice now how this character is shown forth in the story of reincarnation in three definite ways.

The first thing that is vital to reincarnation is a previous existence. This would give to every living person an existence before their earthly birth. In reality there is only one who is eternally existent before taking on the form of man and He is described in John, chapter one. It is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. Do you see how Satan desires to copy the great miracle of the

eternal existence of Christ? He would say, "Why, what if Jesus is eternally existent? So is everyone else!"

The second thing that is necessary to reincarnation, of course, is incarnation itself. Again this is one of the great miracles connected with Jesus, the Son of God. In Philippians 2:5-8 we read:

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Do you see again the copying of Satan? He tries again to discount the miracle of the incarnation of the Son of God by intimating that incarnation is nothing out of the ordinary.

The third peculiarity of reincarnation as brought out by hypnotists is that of the ability of the subjects to speak the language of the country they claim to have lived in, although they do not speak such a language in normal life. The Scripture says that this same Lord Jesus who is eternally existent, and who left the realms of Glory to take upon Himself the form of a man, also went to the cross, there to be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities, to pay for our sins with His own blood. It also says that after He arose from the dead and met with His own, He instructed them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father. Jesus promised them that they should receive power after that the Holy Ghost was come upon them and that they should be His witnesses. They did wait and the promise did come and on the day of Pentecost God gave a wonderful gift of languages so that all who were gathered there might understand the glorious good news of salvation in his own language. So once again the old desire of Satan "I will be like the most High." Yes, Satan even copies the miracle of the speaking of the languages from the Lord.

III. Reincarnation Presents the Wrong Issue to Men and Women

Not only is all this reincarnation talk contrary to the Word of God and in line with the methods of Satan, but it also presents entirely the wrong issues to men and women. Reincarnation turns the mind from the issues that are a reality to issues that do not exist or are falsehoods.

Your great concern tonight is not reincarnation at all but "the Incarnation." The question comes to you tonight even as it did to Pilate and you must decide, "What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ?" You may receive Him as your own Saviour or you may reject Him. You must do one or the other. Pilate tried to wash his hands of the whole affair but to no avail, and you cannot be neutral. What will you do with Jesus?

Your problem that will decide your eternal destiny is not "Was I born before?" but rather, "Am I born again?" Jesus said, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." You need to be born again by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who died for you.

"He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."— John 1:11-13.

If you are a Christian you do not need to look forward to another human body, but rather to a glorified body. Who wants another body hampered with sin and sickness? I don't care to have one. I will see too much sickness and pain and sorrow just in this coming week in the hospitals to desire another earthly body. Your teeth fall out and your hair falls out in this life. Someone has said "You come into this world with

no teeth and no hair and you go out the same way." No! Let us look forward to the time when Christ shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body.

Reincarnation presents an intermediate state called an astral state where you don't talk to anyone, but I'm looking forward to a real place prepared by Jesus where I will know my Saviour and my loved ones. I'll be able to sit down with Moses and Joshua and Elijah. This will not be just a temporary place. We will be with the Lord for all eternity!

IV. The Bible Presents One Physical Death and Then Judgment

I have tried to point out the dangerous errors of the reincarnation tonight. Of course one of the most dangerous effects of believing such a foolish teaching, is the presentation of a way of salvation that is contrary to the way that God has revealed in His own Word. The Bible plainly shows that there is one physical death and after this the judgment. If you are lost tonight and you do not come to Christ in this life, you can only look forward to

Hell, judgment and the lake of fire. Again and again we are reminded of the nearness and sureness of death. Each time we see another funeral we need to remind ourselves that one day we too shall face death. We know that Methuselah lived 969 years, but even he died. Read Genesis, chapter five, when you get home and see the sureness of death. Are you prepared for death if it should come tonight? You can face death with victory if you know Christ as your own Saviour. Won't you trust Him tonight?

Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." "Behold I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

Realize your sin and "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

—THE END—

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God Answers . . .

(Continued from page 1)

have been far gone in sin are so filled with gladness when they are saved, is because as a rule they very frankly and fully confess their shortcomings. Men who have lived an outwardly decent life are oftentimes held back from this kind of confession. Men whose characters and reputations have been destroyed, who have become ragged and filthy because of their sinful lives, are saved from the temptation to cover up their sins. Their evil doings are obvious. They lie on the very surface: The world knows them for what they have been and when Jesus changes them they do not attempt to hide the fact that they owe a great debt for a tremendous salvation.

David said that when he kept silence his bones waxed old through his sorrow all the day long (Ps. 32:3). And then he goes on to say that he made confession of his sin and came into condition for service again. Just so he says in Psalm 51, "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation . . . Then will I teach transgressors thy ways" (vss. 12, 13). That is, when the joy of salvation returned, he could go to work for God and it is also true that he could go to work for himself. It is difficult for most men to confess their sins.

Francis Murphy, the great temperance advocate, said, "The three most difficult words in the English language to pronounce are 'I was wrong.' " These words are not only difficult—they are fundamentally important. If men will not acknowledge their sins, God cannot grant their requests. Many years ago I heard a minister say, "If there is a piece of lead weighing a pound, at the bottom of a pitcher, you may pump the Atlantic Ocean into that pitcher, but you cannot fill it until you take the lead out." Just so he said there are sins in the lives of men. They lie in the memory a dark and heavy dead thing. The hearts of such persons can never be filled with joy and peace, they can never be fit to do their own work or do God's work until the "lead" is removed by an honest confession. It is wonderful and it works.

Men who will confess their sins can make advances, and men who will not confess their sins

can make no solid advances. The meditation on the character and attributes of God naturally leads us to think of our own shortcomings, misgivings, failures. If we can only be frank and free in speaking of them to God, we come into the state of peace and rest, and coming into this state, we are ready for anything. We can do or suffer triumphantly when the conscience has been cleared by honest confession and the blood of Christ.

Submission

Another thing which prayer does for men is, to bring them into a state of honest and happy submission to God. When men reflect upon what God is and upon what they are, and honestly confess their own failures in view of God's character, they naturally find it easy to submit to the will of God. This is another source of peace, of restfulness, and when we rest we gather energy—we become fit. It is safe to say that one of the most common sources of weakness and incapacity is a restless fretting, a secret rebellion against the will and plan of God.

Here is a mother praying for a sick child, and she really prays. She adores; she confesses. By and by she will come to submit, if she continues to adore and to confess, and when she really submits, when she comes to say: "Not my will, but thine," she will be a thousand times more competent to care for her sick child than when she is really, even if unconsciously, rebelling against the plan of God. Her own nerves will quiet, her own eyesight will clear. Her own courage will stay and by the very change produced in herself, it is entirely possible that God may save the life of her child.

Take the case of a man who desires a certain position. Motives are mixed. There is an element of the divine. There is an element of the human. The position is attractive, the compensation may be large, the associations may be desirable. At the same time opportunity for service may be great and the man himself may find these varying motives so entangled that he cannot exactly say which one is predominant. But coming

before God for this position which he desires, he thinks of God as Maker and Ruler of the universe, as high and holy and lifted up. He thinks of himself as sinful by nature, as having oftentimes added to the sinfulness of his nature the guilt of actual transgression. He becomes submissive. He puts himself at the disposal of God. He consents to what the providence of God shall reveal. Cannot anyone see that under these circumstances the man is more likely to secure what he deserves than if, with a stiff neck and a high head and an unsubmissive heart, he were to struggle for it? The very state of mind into which he comes will, if you allow the expression, make it more possible for God to give the thing which he desires.

Asking Things From God

It is this which is the principal element in prayer, though the other items which have been mentioned are, either in conscious or unconscious form, necessary precedent conditions; but if there is no request, there is no prayer, and meditation upon the character of God, upon our own characters and humble submission to God inclines us to ask things from Him and enables us joyfully and perseveringly to do it. "Ye have not, because ye ask not" (Jas. 4:2). The Holy Spirit thus recorded the failure of men and women who thought they prayed thousands of years ago, and this difficulty still remains. The poet says:

"Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, Uttered or unexpressed."

But sincere desire does not mean simply wanting things. It means desiring things when we have in mind the greatness and goodness of God, our own ill desert, and an humble willingness to receive the thing that God chooses to send. Men do not desire the same things in all states of mind. The differences between men are very largely in their desires and their desires are occasioned by their characters. Men desire different things because they are different persons, and men who desire with a proper thought of God desire and ask in a totally different manner from that employed by different sorts of people. Some do not ask because they are too proud to ask. They do not

realize the difference between themselves and God. Some do not ask because they rely upon their own efforts to secure the thing which they desire. Some do not ask because they are not in condition to ask. A child in rebellion against his father will never be free in his petitions, but a loving child who knows the power and goodness of his father and his own helplessness, and is willing that his father should do what he wills, is in good condition to make requests, and I can testify from experience, as many other fathers can, that it is very difficult to refuse the request of such a child.

"Ye have not, because ye ask not" (Jas. 4:2). What a complete explanation of the failure of the prayer lives of men, as well as their failures in other respects is found in these words. I do not think that the Holy Spirit in this expression had in mind unsaved people. The Bible was (most of it) written for persons who were at heart right with God. The Bible message to an unrepentant sinner is very short. God does not have a great deal to say to him. "Repent, and believe the gospel" is pretty much all that he needs to hear, but we children—babes in the house of God—need to learn to walk, we need to learn to talk, we need to learn to take hold of things. We need to come into the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4: 13).

This is why there is so much reproof, so much example, so much encouragement for us in the Word of God, and among other things, this is why we are reminded that we fail to receive things because we fail to ask for things. I am sure that I have a thousand times failed to receive good gifts from God, because I did not ask, and in many of these cases my failure was thoughtlessness, natural impulse to work myself—a failure to adore, to confess, and to submit, all of which things would naturally have led me to ask for the things which I needed and really desired rather than to seek to obtain them for myself.

With Thanksgiving

I have mentioned the duty of thanksgiving before, I do not deal with it in any extended fashion at this time, but I mention it because I am trying to show how God answers prayer. He answers prayer by working changes in us, among other things, and these changes which He works in us are not chance happenings but are wrought in accordance with the laws by which He governs the material and spiritual world. The soul which adores, which confesses failure, which offers up its submissions and which makes its requests to God, will have abundant occasions for thanksgiving and will be enabled to give thanks.

"Nor is the least a thankful heart, Which takes those gifts with joy."

Indeed, this is one of the great gifts of God—a thankful heart. We oftentimes assume the things which require most care and many times we care for things which may be assumed. How many times have you heard a person pray for grace to be grateful? How many times have you prayed for power to sympathize? How many times have you prayed for a praiseworthy heart? Sam Jones used to say that there were two parts to a man's relations to God—man's part and God's part. He said men are all the while assuming that their part is well done and they are very much afraid that God will fail in His, whereas the fact is, that God never fails at all—that the failure, if there is any, is on our part.

I remember to have heard a brother minister at the funeral of a child say, "Lord, teach us to sympathize." It was a helpful word to me. I saw that I did not know. I knew a dear saint who lived a long life under circumstances of great tribulation, whose habit it was to begin her testimony in the prayer meeting with the words: "I pray for strength to praise my God." These are wise words and it would be eminently wise if we should pray more than we do for thankful hearts and for the gift of expressing our thankfulness, and while this duty is pre-eminently one which we owe

to God, it is also a duty to the many about us who contribute to our well being. I wish that into the lives of all who read these words there might come a *storm of thanksgiving*.

I am sure that one of the griefs of God and good people is that men so seldom and in such stinted fashion express the thanksgiving which perhaps in a blind, half-hearted way they feel. What husband is there who does not owe his wife ten thousand thanksgivings for the patient, loving service of years? What wife who does not at times cause her husband to wonder whether she really does appreciate the patient labor that brings the comforts into the home for her and her children? What parent is there who has not a right at times to think that his children do not appreciate the loving care which has watched over them from the beginning in their homes? What children are there who do not render ten thousand little services to father and mother, for which they receive scanty, if any thanks at all, and who of all of us is there who does not have a great amount of thanksgiving due to God?

I was once leading a special meeting for a few weeks and I said to the young people: "We have prayed a good deal first and last. Let us make this meeting a thanksgiving meeting." And I went through the hymnbook which we were using at that time to select praiseful hymns. As I recall, there were something like three hundred hymns in that book and I had hard work to find a dozen that were really hymns of praise. There were lots of prayers, there were lots of exhortations, there were a great number of sentimental ditties of one kind and another, but real praise to God for His patient, forbearing love and His ceaseless, watchful care, was almost wanting.

Is not this enough to break the heart even of the Almighty, that there is such a stinted return for the unnumbered blessings which He pours upon us, and is this not one of the evils in our lives which is cured by prayer? It is true that prayer is a mental gymnastic. It is true that it does bring us into a state of mind and heart where we are fitted to do life's work and to receive God's goodness in some way that shall really accomplish what the will of God desires. This is not all the truth, but it is a part of the truth and those who emphasize it do right if they do not join with it erroneous teaching respecting other parts of the prayer life.

(From the book, *GETTING THINGS FROM GOD*, \$2.50 at your book store or add 15c for postage and packing and order from Sword of the Lord, Wheaton, Illinois.)

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Noteworthy News Notes

(Continued from page 6)

throughout the United States and Canada.

Modernist spokesmen love to refer to Dr. Carl McIntire as "an unfrocked" Presbyterian minister. For several years he was pastor of the Collingswood Presbyterian Church. It is a beautiful Gothic structure and is one of the larger churches. Then came the famous church trial when Dr. McIntire, Dr. Buswell, Dr. McPherson and others were tried for the "sin" of starting a new Presbyterian Foreign Mission Board free from modernism. They were found "guilty" and "unfrocked"—"unfrocked" for the Truth's sake.

Now, in the weekly paper published by this church appears the

The Senior Westminster Fellowship of Collingswood Presbyterian Church, Fern and Maple avenues, cordially welcome all senior high members to attend their Christmas dance on Saturday, Dec. 3 at 8 p.m. It will be dressy, and no admission will be charged. Light refreshments will be served. Come stag or drag."

(Question: In the eyes of the Lord, who would you say was "unfrocked"??)

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